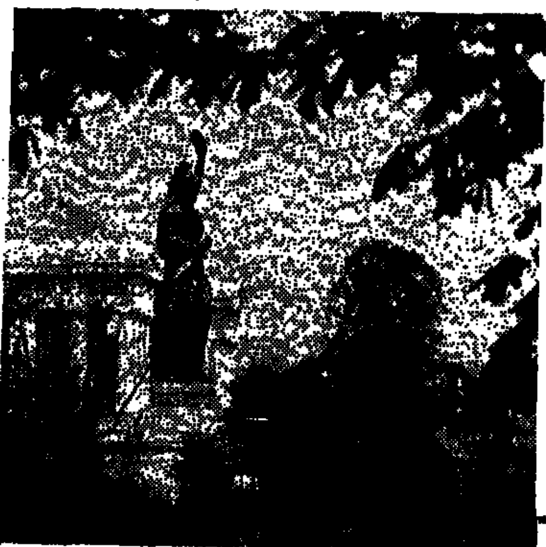


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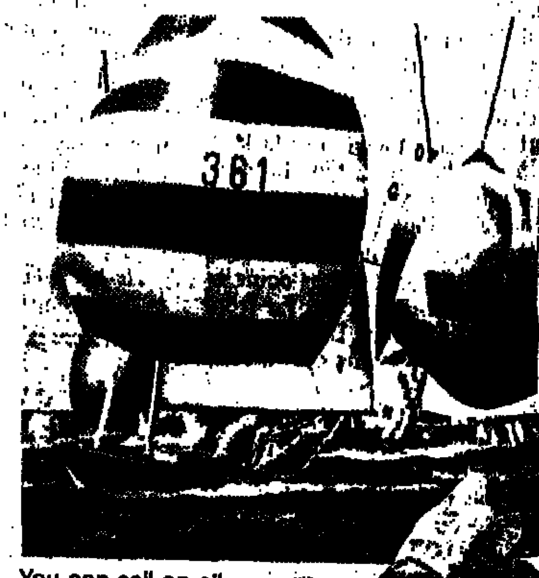


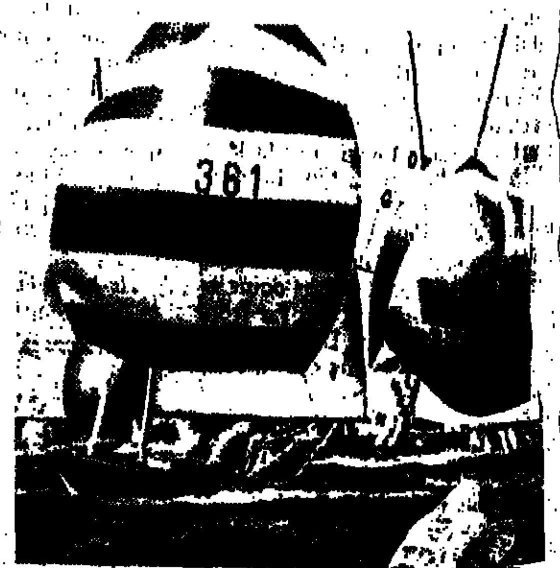












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The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 22 July 1971
Tenth Year - No. 484 - By air

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British government keeps Russia at arm's length

Reviewing relations so far with the Heath government the Kremlin cannot have much cause for satisfaction. Seldom has a post-war British administration so plainly given Moscow the cold shoulder as the Conservative government in Whitehall over the past year.

Times have changed since the British and Soviet heads of government attempted in dramatic night-time negotiations to find a peace formula for the war in Vietnam and London was a political booster station between Washington and Moscow as was the case while Labour was in office.

What was possible under Mr Wilson has been inconceivable with Mr Heath as Prime Minister, not only because Edward Heath's political style is entirely different but also because the basic tenor of his attitude towards Moscow is both more sceptical and more cautious than that of Harold Wilson.

Yet there has been no lack of Soviet attempts to bring about a thaw in what constitute chilly relations. Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko visited London last year for the first time in many years with invitations to visit the Soviet capital for both Mr Heath and Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home. Whitehall showed only a modicum of interest in the idea.

Some indication of the importance attached to relations with the Eastern Bloc by Britain's Conservative government is provided by the noteworthy fact that during the Conservatives' first year in office not a single Cabinet Minister has visited an Eastern European country, let alone the Kremlin.

There are a variety of reasons for this unmistakeable reserve. To begin with, Mr Heath set himself other foreign policy priorities. He aimed first to bring Britain economically and politically closer to Western Europe before entering into talks with the Kremlin.

Now that this target has been reached [illegible]ter than was originally expected it can be assumed that Britain's policy towards the Eastern Bloc will grow a little more flexible.

The first indication that this may be the case was the visit to Moscow by Sir Denis Greenhill, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, who intimated to his Soviet opposite numbers that Sir Alec might visit the Soviet capital at the end of this year or the beginning of 1972.

It would, however, be wrong to infer from moves of this kind that a fundamental change in relations between Britain and the Soviet Union may be expected.

In dealings with the Soviet Union Sir Alec is firmly convinced that despite the detente plans Moscow has launched of late to stimulate political interest in the West the Kremlin remains first and foremost anxious to maintain the status quo.

The Soviet Union, Britain's Foreign Secretary feels, neither wants nor would welcome dramatic developments designed to bring about a change in the whole gamut of East-West relations.

The upshot of this attitude has been evident enough over the last twelve months. Whitehall notes with interest what Moscow has to say but checks with greater intensity and scepticism than in the past the motives behind such proposals as are made.

This scepticism applies particularly to all proposals on a multilateral basis, the outcome of which cannot be assessed.

Which is why the European security conference project and the proposal for a mutual balanced reduction in troop strength have met with a feebler response in London than in any other Western capital.

Whitehall would prefer not to embark on grand designs in world affairs with Moscow as long as the Kremlin has not made its position clear.

For this reason virtually all Britain's activity on the Eastern front has been concentrated on the Four-Power talks on Berlin.

The Berlin talks, Whitehall feels, are a limited topic allowing of no evasion on the Soviet part and are consequently a useful test of Moscow's genuine willingness to negotiate and bring about a relaxation of tension.

Viewed in this light Britain links not only the Berlin talks and the European security conference but also Berlin and the whole gamut of British policy towards the Eastern Bloc.

As long as Moscow is not prepared to come to terms with the West on Berlin there is, the British government feels, no point in entering into higher political mathematics with the Soviet Union and, say, discussing mutual troop cuts, which Britain reckons to be hardly feasible anyway in view of the geographical asymmetry of the two power blocs.

There are good reasons why the Kremlin continues to try and engage in talks with the British government, despite Britain's playing hard to get and the diplomatic strife that continually arises in connection with prominent Soviet refugees such as Anatoli Fedoseyev and the expulsion of British and Soviet diplomats from both countries.

Moscow has evidently noticed that despite stagnation in other extra-European sectors of British foreign policy there has been a dramatic improvement in relations with a country with which ties have been deep-frozen and at times distinctly hostile.

This country is mainland China and the improvement in relations with Britain dates back to some time before Peking's much-vaunted ping-pong offensive.

Fritz Wirth
(Die Welt, 12 July 1971)

IN THIS ISSUE





World beaters

Hildegard Falck (left) is the first woman in the world to run 800 metres under two minutes. At Stuttgart she ran the distance in one minute 58.3 seconds. Uwe Beyer established a new world record for throwing the hammer — 74.90 metres — at the West German athletics championships in Stuttgart. (Photos: Nordbild)

Moscow continues to lay stress on a European security conference

Seldom has the Soviet Union pursued a foreign policy goal with such determination, persistence and imagination as the European security conference.

Any mention of the topic during encounters on the diplomatic scene in Moscow is welcomed with open arms, as it were.

The Soviet side paint the spectrum of posible forms of cooperation in bright colours. They never fail to add that the Bonn-Moscow Treaty of last August has improved the prospect of cooperation between East and West on the Continent.

As for the substance of proposed all-European agreements on security and cooperation the Soviet aim would, in a nutshell, appear to be the following: the fundamentals of the Bonn-Moscow Treaty, both the principles and the practical possibilities, are to be carried over to the multilateral, European level.

This amounts to inviolability of existing frontiers, agreements on renunciation of the use of force and a multilateral, all-European version of the preamble to the Moscow Treaty including a declaration of intent to cultivate economic, scientific and technological contacts in Europe.

Prompt ratification of last year's treaty and a few specific additional agreements between Bonn and Moscow on practical aspects of cooperation would, in Moscow's view, encourage Western Europeans who may for the time being view the idea of all-European cooperation as a doubtful starter.

In this context it is clear that Soviet interest in a prompt Berlin settlement and the ensuing possibility of ratification of the Bonn-Moscow Treaty continues unabated.

The Kremlin would like to get the countries of Europe together round a conference table soon because, it is feared, the United States might well play for time and bring influence to bear accordingly on its allies.

A first round-table meeting of European countries would, in Moscow's view, be extremely valuable even if no immediate results were achieved.

Whatever else happened a meeting of this kind would upgrade the GDR and have a psychological detente effect. It is by no means out of the question that participants might agree after an initial meeting to include on the agenda both multilateral renunciation of the use of force and inviolability of frontiers.

In order to gather the countries to-

Continued on page 2

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

European-minded politicians fight against time to bring about unity

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Heads of government are like relatives. When they part company on the best of terms they consider the meeting to have been a success. But politics is more than mere family ties. Agreement is no guarantee that their decisions are any good.

This is true even when world public opinion joins in the applause the statesmen give each other. History is full of examples of political encounters the results of which have been generally applauded to begin with but have subsequently proved to be disastrous.

The recent meeting in Bonn of President Pompidou of France and Chancellor Brandt of this country may not, of course, hold forth the prospect of danger at some future date but then the two men do not seem to have come to decisions that are likely to be written in the pages of history. The question is, though, whether the recent spectacular encounters between European heads of government, specifically Edward Heath, Georges Pompidou and Willy Brandt, might not herald a development that will, in the long run, prove detrimental to the cause of Western European integration.

In view of Britain's prospective membership of the Common Market it is high time a closer look was taken at the shape Western Europe is to take.

Is Europe to remain by and large a collection of independent countries between which the European Community will merely mediate or are further developments to proceed in the direction of a European federal state?

The sole European statesman to have stated his position with any degree of clarity over the last few months is M. Pompidou of France.

He may have deliberately left much in the dark but his press conference of 21 May makes it clear enough that his view of a united Europe is at best that of a loose association of states, a confederation. Individual members are to retain full sovereignty.

It was interesting to see how the two other major countries of Western Europe, Britain and Germany, would react to the French concept.

But hopes that Britain's Conservative government, having taken the plunge, would go the whole hog and advocate true European union were soon disappointed.

British membership of the Common Market leads, as the encounter between Heath and Pompidou showed (and, for that matter, as was to be expected) to an intensification of the tendency towards retention of member-countries' political independence.

In this situation the Federal Republic alone, perhaps with the support of a few other EEC member-countries, could have held high the banner of European unity.

The political significance of the encounter between Pompidou and Brandt is that nothing of the sort occurred. On leaving Bonn the French President was able to note with satisfaction that this country is fundamentally in accord with his own views.

In Bonn this triumph of a policy that many are pleased to term pragmatic is explained away and excused on the grounds of political realities. As no one is enthusiastic about a European federation at the moment, it is argued, there would have been little point in this country being the odd man out.

One can, of course, reply that the present Federal government was by no means discouraged by French resistance to British membership of the Common Market in the past and obstinately insisted on expansion of the EEC until France backed down and success was achieved.

One could equally well visualise determined insistence on a firm political structure for Western Europe meeting with success in the long run. But as long as none of the governments concerned espouses this cause no progress will be made.

The present situation could and would have to be accepted for what it is did not international developments make another course essential.

After the events of the last few months in the United States there can be little doubt that Western Europe cannot in the long run rely on America retaining its military commitments on the Continent at their present strength.

Even M. Pompidou acknowledged in Bonn that Western Europe is going to have to assume greater responsibility for its own security.

How, one must ask, is it to go about this when the countries of Western Europe are not only making no effort to establish joint institutions but even aiming at weakening existing co[...] institutions such as the EEC Comm[...] in Brussels?

Sooner or later developments in E[...] are going to lead to bitter disappoin[...] in America. No European state seems to realise what reactions [...] follow.

No attempts are being made to [...] the justified American demand [...] greater degree of support in world [...] Nor, for that matter, is Western Europ[...] preparing for the situation that [...] inevitably occur when the United S[...] disappointedly turns its back on Eu[...]

At present the heads of governme[...] agreed only on taking their time [...] shaping the political future of Europ[...] is doubtful whether international [...] velopments will grant them the time.

Wolfgang W[...]

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 July [...])

Security conferen[...]

Continued from page 1

gether at all and as soon as possib[...] East has reduced its original [...] programme for a European security [...] ference to a number of unobjectiv[...] topics of a general nature.

At present there are three of t[...] European security and renunciati[...] the use of force, expansion of [...] economic, technological and sci[...] relations and the establishment of a [...] to deal with issues relating to security [...] cooperation in Europe.

This body could deal with [...] problems and continue to debate [...] for years as a permanent institutio[...]

Initially the East went into far[...] detail about its proposals. When all [...] and done European security and [...] European cooperation have been [...] subject of three Eastern Bloc summits [...] Bucharest in 1966, Budapest in 1969 [...] Berlin in 1970, two conferences [...] Foreign Ministers, in Prague in 1969 [...] Budapest in 1970, and the 1967 Karl[...] Vary communist summit.

As in the case of the treaty with [...] Moscow hopes by means of an all-Euro[...] pean conference to secure a stat[...] form for improved consideration of [...] terests of trade and scientific and tech[...] nological exchange.

The economic side of an all-Europ[...] conference is considered by Moscow [...] be of particular importance in view of [...] expansion of the Common Market.

In the sixties the Kremlin forecast th[...] Comecon would soon prove its superi[...] ity and that the EEC would turn out [...] be a flash in the pan. Moscow has [...] long since come to realise that [...] Common Market is a dynamic institu[...]

The Soviet Union would continue [...] welcome the decline and fall of t[...] Common Market but has long based [...] tactics on the reality of a West[...] European community that will [...] include not only the Six but also Brit[...]

Heinz La[...]

(Kieler Nachrichten, 10 July 19[...])

The German Tribun[e]

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Balkan countries strive to be good friends all round

Two of the countries of South-Eastern Europe (three if one includes Hungary) form part of Moscow's Eastern Bloc. They are Bulgaria and Rumania.

One, Albania, has made common cause with Peking. Two, Greece and Turkey, are members of Nato. A solitary Balkan country, Yugoslavia, has elected to remain non-aligned despite having a communist government and social set-up.

Of late, however, the situation has changed somewhat. Differences remain but the general trend is towards a lessening of these differences. Occasionally even talk of regional renunciation of force or the establishment of a peace zone in the South-East recurs.

At the moment Rumania's foreign policy is ranging furthest beyond the immediate vicinity and at the same time clearest in principle as to the demand for national self-determination.

Rumanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu's grand tour of Asia began with an assurance that Bucharest had no intention of making political capital of its own out of the differences of opinion between Moscow and Peking. If anything it was hoped to bridge the gap by means of the common communist ideology.

At a juncture at which Warsaw Pact manoeuvres were again being held not far from the Rumanian border Ceausescu wanted to stay in everyone's good books and was quick to articulate declarations of good will of this kind.

Renewal of the bilateral friendship pact between Bucharest and Moscow had evidently not entirely assuaged Soviet misgivings about Rumania's striving for independence and about increasing cooperation between Rumania and People's China.

During the visit, which included a visit to the capital of Soviet-allied Mongolia and a meeting with Soviet Premier Kosygin during the stopover in Moscow, First Secretary Ceausescu reiterated first the formula of the need for striking a balance in the communist camp and then the claim to national self-determination in accordance with a country's geographical location and political situation.

He made less mention of issues directly affecting South-Eastern Europe but had clearly not forgotten them. Relations between Bucharest and Sofia have recently been improved by means of talks between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries.

Budapest has sounded a conciliatory note in an attempt to overcome differences of opinion that still remain.

Rumanian foreign policy runs virtually parallel with that of Yugoslavia, witness the visits to Peking of Nicolae Ceausescu and Yugoslav Foreign Minister Mirko Tepavac.

The Yugoslav Minister's visit to China was preceded by a demonstrative improvement in relations between Belgrade and Tirana. The Yugoslav government is also proving more obliging towards the Albanian minority in Kosovo and Macedonia.

Recalling the Balkan pact of the early fifties, now defunct, Yugoslavia has also gone to some trouble to improve relations with Greece and Turkey. Yugoslavia is even on talking terms with Bulgaria again after decades of mutual claims to Macedonia.

Since none of the Eastern Bloc governments is closer to Moscow than Sofia success, which is by no means certain as yet, could well lead to a relaxation of tension between Belgrade and Moscow too.

Soviet mistrust of all kinds of Balkan alliances, particularly within the Communist camp, has never subsided. It is no longer as powerful as it used to be in Stalin's days when the Generalissimo had his Bulgarian friend Georgi Dimitroff fall from grace on account of plans of this kind and completely excommunicated Tito.

Nevertheless all attempts to engineer a special pact between Balkan countries are being slowed down via Sofia. Bulgarian Premier Todor Zhivkov, for instance, left out of his speech to the last party congress a number of sentences included in the press transcript and advocating a multilateral agreement on renunciation of the use of force among Balkan countries.

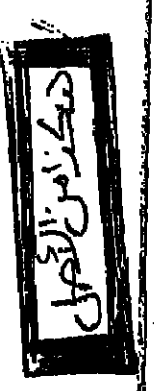
Nicolae Ceausescu well knows why he is avoiding tricky issues of this kind and advocating instead a general European security pact, the latest occasion being in the course of a visit to President Kekkonen and Finland, the instigator of the plan for a European security conference.

Even within this wider framework the Rumanians are intent on safeguarding national independence against intervention of all kinds, as Bonn would do well to take note.

As a realist, a Black Sea countryman and a member of the Warsaw Pact Ceausescu cannot go so far as the Maoist Albanians and boldly proclaim that the aim of South-East European cooperation ought to be to force both the Russians and the Americans to pull out of the Mediterranean.

Immanuel Birnbaum

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 6 July 1971)



POLITICS

Barzel favoured as new CDU leader

Now that Kurt Georg Kiesinger has announced his intention of not standing again for the post of leader of the Christian Democrats (CDU) the race is on.

There are two rivals for the post, Rainer Barzel, parliamentary party chairman of the Christian Democratic and Christian Social Unions (CDU/CSU), and Helmut Kohl, Premier of the Rhineland-Palatinate.

Following official announcements to this effect by CDU general secretary Bruno Heck after a meeting of the party executive in Bonn everything appeared to have returned to normal again in the CDU.

This news only uncovers part of the leadership crisis that still bedevils the CDU, though. Other names besides those of Barzel and Kohl are mentioned in the battle for leadership of the Christian Democrats.

For one there is Dr Kiesinger himself, who has not intimated how he would respond to a call from the floor of the Saarbrücken party conference to stand again.

Then there is Gerhard Schröder, who is still at the ready should the posts of party leader and Shadow Chancellor be combined.

Last but not least there is Franz Josef Strauss of the CSU, the Bavarian branch of the party, who of late has tried on several occasions to influence the battle for *leadership of the* CDU and the Shadow Chancellorship.

Despite the fighting behind the scenes one of the candidates, Rainer Barzel, is well in the lead. His progress towards leadership of the party can now hardly be impeded.

Dr Barzel hardly need fear Helmut Kohl, the local worthy from Mainz. Leadership of the parliamentary party in Bonn is an advantage that the Rhineland-Palatinate Premier cannot equal.

Of late Rainer Barzel has gained ample support from party regions too. Rhenish party leader Heinrich Köppler makes no bones about his preference for Dr Barzel, nor does West phalian CDU leader Windelen. Alfred Dregger, meteoric CDU leader in Hesse, has also opted for Barzel.

Against this massive support Helmut Kohl's local support in the Rhineland-Palatinate does not look too impressive.

Premier Kohl stated his ambition to become CDU leader, and leader only, at an early stage but he has been none too skilful in his tactics.

Too many delegates at Saarbrücken will recall his inept performance at Düsseldorf in January. On the issue of workers' participation in management he went so far as to go back on his own words and vote against his own proposal.

This self-inflicted wound will take some time to heal.

The strangest role in this battle for the highest honours is that played by Gerhard Schröder. He seems prepared to stand against Rainer Barzel but has yet to commit himself, much to the disappointment of his supporters.

Much may change in the political landscape between now and the Saarbrücken conference but to bank on emotion, emotion, moreover, that is hard to define, seems a doubtful procedure.

Dr Heck referred to this feeling when mentioning that there was a considerable tendency within the CDU to distinguish between the posts of party leader and Shadow Chancellor. Yet even he had to admit that this was not a hard and fast view.

Hans Katzer

Will Dr Schröder miss the boat by banking on this tendency? Or is he already resigning himself to the clear lead Dr Barzel has?

Saarbrücken will only witness the election of a new CDU leader. The Shadow Chancellor will not be elected until later, in conjunction with the Bavarian CSU.

But by laying claim to both posts and being the increasingly more likely prospective leader of the CDU Rainer Barzel will have gained such a lead when it comes to the crunch that even Franz Josef Strauss would have difficulty in beating him. Gerhard Schröder certainly will have.

For the CDU there can be no avoiding Rainer Barzel regardless which way the voting goes. CDU politicians may be divided in their views on his performance as parliamentary party leader but these differences of opinion cannot alter the fact that if the trend continues and everything goes his way Rainer Barzel will soon be in such a powerful position that the remainder of the CDU will have to toe the line.

Dr Barzel will not, of course, have reached his peak until he has led the CDU to electoral victory and, more important still, to the government benches.

To win the election is not to form the government, as Rainer Barzel knows by virtue of bitter experience. He sounded a note of triumph on election night 1969 yet woke up the next morning to find himself in opposition.

Barzel's temperament put both himself and the CDU at a disadvantage two years ago. This sort of thing may well make any future campaigns he conducts a risky business.

Heinz Verfürth

(Handelsblatt, 7 July 1971)



Hans Katzer sticks to his guns at Koblenz conference

Hans Katzer, chairman of the Christian Democratic social committees, the working-class wing of the CDU, did not make use of the Koblenz conference of his organisation to step even rhetorically beyond the pale of the CDU party line.

He made no difficulty whatsoever for a Christian Democratic Union that had given him a sharp rebuff at the party's Düsseldorf conference on the issue of workers' participation.

Quite the reverse; both he and his general secretary Norbert Blüm were at pains to stress their continued loyalty to the party. He even extended the hand of friendship to his opponents on the CDU economic affairs council.

This noble gesture is characteristic of Katzer. So is his decision not to attempt to bring influence to bear on the reappraisal being undertaken by a group he considers to have been in the wrong.

Nor, for that matter, would he like to pursue a policy of in-fighting within the party at a time when the CDU is suffering from leaderlessness. Yet he had every justification for hitting back at so-called friends within the party.

His social committees were recently done a bad turn. *Dialog*, a monthly magazine allied to the employers' wing of the party, claimed in a brash article that Norbert Blüm, who had long since departed from the intellectual principles of Christian Democracy, was thinking in terms of resigning from the CDU altogether.

The parliamentary party in Bonn, the writer maintained, was working on a paper accusing Blüm of behaviour calculated to be detrimental to the interests of the CDU.

The article cast aspersions on Katzer's political ability and tried to drive a wedge between him and Blüm. This attack was discussed at the highest levels of the party and caused something of a stir throughout the CDU.

The upshot was that Blüm reaped enthusiastic applause for his report to the Koblenz conference and that "now we'll show them" feelings were widespread among members of the social committees. The *Dialog* attack boomeranged.

Koblenz was a demonstration of the continued self-confidence of the social committees, which between them account for some 100,000 of the 300,000 members of the CDU/CSU.

One indication of the committees' importance was the presence of both candidates for the posts of CDU leader and Shadow Chancellor, Rainer Barzel and Gerhard Schröder.

Barzel had a message to the conference at the ready but, like his rivals, was not allowed on to the rostrum to read it.

Gerhard Schröder overcame this handicap by joining the delegates in their pea soup lunch, while Helmut Kohl, Premier of the Rhineland-Palatinate, hosted a Rhineland-Palatinate evening after the day's work.

In a humorous address Kohl freely admitted that he had boobed badly at the Düsseldorf party conference on the issue of workers' participation. This admission was greeted by a round of applause but it was hard to say whether the Koblenz conference forgave him on the strength of it.

Both his behaviour at Düsseldorf and that of other would-be party leaders continue to be interpreted as a poor showing hardly befitting a potential leader.

The social committees did not commit themselves to one or the other candidate for the party leadership. They would prefer not to show their hand too early in the day and have yet to make up their minds definitely one way or the other.

For the time being they are trying to gain support for their views on social and welfare policy and to provide each of the candidates with an opportunity of showing himself to be open-minded and willing to espouse their views.

It is an open secret that Hans Katzer has a hard time gaining appreciation at the top of the aims of his wing of the party. Franz Josef Strauss in particular is an eloquent opponent of his.

Hospital reform is not the only topic on which there has been heated debate between the two.

At Koblenz Hans Katzer was uncompromising in his opposition to the idea of the CDU making use of ex-Free Democrat Siegfried Zoglmann and his Deutsche Union as a means of gaining a majority in the Bundestag.

He called for clear alternatives, an appeal that is sure to be held against him when the party in Bonn gets down to discussion of the leadership succession but one that is eloquent evidence of his own self-confidence.

Katzer would prefer not to be the social alibi of his party but must continue to perform this function as long as his well-founded willingness to carry out reforms is matched at the other end of the scale by the eagerness of some members of the CDU to curry the favour of marginal voters of a nationalistic hue.

Part of the cross the social committees have to bear is that their undeniable achievements are invariably the outcome of a difficult process of alignment with other wings of the party.

The Christian Democratic working men heighten the social awareness of their party but suffer many a setback in the process, not only the rejection of their workers' participation proposals at the Düsseldorf conference.

The social committees have long been disappointed by the fact that their influence in the party bears no relation to the potential strength of working class support for the CDU.

They are intent on gaining more widespread support. At Koblenz, for instance, they made a first attempt to discuss issues relating to civil servants and the problems of principal salaried staffs.

Hans Katzer was re-elected their leader by a substantial majority at Koblenz. He is armed for the fray should other groups within the CDU/CSU convey the impression that the Christian Democrats primarily represent the interests of the management side of industry.

Lothar Labusch

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 5 July 1971)

Helmut Kohl (left), Gerhard Schröder, ex-chancellor Ludwig Erhard, Rainer Barzel and ex-chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger at a CDU conference (Photos: J.H. Darchinger)

THE STAGE

Hans Neuenfels' latest production of *Die Räuber* fails miserably

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Who can forget the wave of *Räuber* productions that swept the country about five years ago at the height of the protest movement?

The Bohemian band travelled throughout the Federal Republic in all directions, from Bremen to Munich, from Hamburg to Düsseldorf.

They travelled as a group of rockers, layabouts or comic-strip characters. There were few producers in the country who did not come up with a new interpretation of the play or a new idea for costumes.

Schiller's first work cost Egon Monk his post as director general of the Hamburg Schauspielhaus and his successor Hans Lietzau then moved from Munich to Hamburg together, significantly, with a wonderfully dramatic and realistic production of the play.

It was a mark of great credit at that period not to produce the play. Hans Neuenfels was one of the few abstainers during those years.

Critics did not therefore travel to Mannheim National Theatre with great expectations of seeing a new fashionable *Räuber* look even though Neuenfels was the producer and had promised a new version of the play.

Neuenfels was not going to seize upon a fashionable idea of past years nor indulge his own love of choreographic productions. He was going to try and provide an interpretation.

It was soon seen that hopes of this type were not altogether unjustified. Neuenfels did not alter the milieu or the period costume of the play.

The programme gave details of which scenes had been cut and what changes had been made so that it was true to speak of the production as a version of the Schiller play but it was a version that did not destroy the meaning and flavour of the original.

A two-storey courtyard with terraces and doors replaces the Bohemian woods of the original and there are various other changes of scene but the text was treated as pregnant and psychological and declaimed accordingly. At first the production seemed perfect.

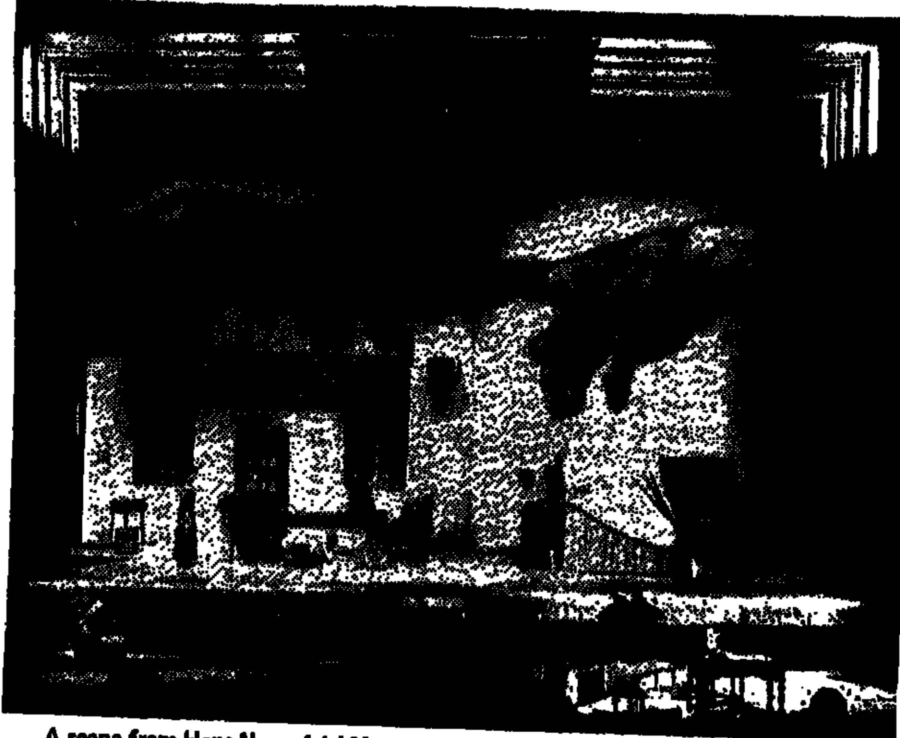
But as the evening wore on it became more and more plain that there is nothing more difficult than interpreting and performing a classical text psychologically and realistically and remaining consistent in the process. Anyone who knows the theatre, from whatever side of the curtain, will agree with that.

Neuenfels is not yet up to facing the difficulties involved in a venture of this type. He was unable to maintain his psychological style up to the very end. When he simply had to continue in one way or another, he came up with brainwaves involving visual gags.

Franz jumps into half-brother Hermann's lap when he is brought into the plot — an old music hall number. Amalia must sit back and allow her bosom to be mauled.

Karl Moor enters via a ten-foot high drainpipe that suddenly appears on a wall in the background. Another invention by Neuenfels is a small dwarf who comes in with the robbers and interrupts their serious conversation a number of times with an astonished "Grüss Gott".

At the end the Captain finally shoots the band down out of hand — though the scene would not be included in a crime film the way it was performed in Mannheim — before being shot himself by a girl lodged high up in her place of hiding.



A scene from Hans Neuenfels' Mannheim production of Schiller's 'Die Räuber'
(Photo: Mara Eggert)

It would certainly not be difficult to defend Schiller against Neuenfels. But it seems to be more important to defend Neuenfels from Neuenfels.

The producer was in the Grosses Haus at Mannheim for the first time where the smaller stage might have been more suitable.

His brainwaves were not of their normal quality. The erotic scenes included in the play and the colourful visual metaphors which were not uninteresting in themselves failed to attain any depth, ironic significance or even dramatic effect.

The audience was able to take pleasure in many aspects of the play — Joachim Bliese's excellent portrayal of Karl for example, Klaus Gelhaar's stage design and wardrobe or Walter Vits-Mühlen and Michael Pawlik as the robbers.

But the pleasure was spoilt by the hectic nature of the final scenes which led the audience to laugh the play off the stage, having already been provoked by various of Neuenfels' brainwaves.

One thing must be established. If Neuenfels is able to digest the lack of success he has had with *Die Räuber* and does not consider its rejection a personal affront, he will certainly be able to progress in the theatrical world along the path or realism.

Wolfgang Ignee

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 29 June 1971)

Early Kroetz play performed in Dortmund

For years the works he wrote were destined to remain unread. They were consigned to his drawers and cupboards as no publisher was willing to take a risk with them.

But Franz Xaver Kroetz, now 25 and a casual labourer and driver in Munich, did not let this get him down.

He was always successful at being a failure. He failed his examinations at school though was able to pass them eventually ("And by the skin of my teeth") in evening school.

He dropped out of the Max Reinhardt Seminar for drama students in Munich before eventually passing the "co-operative examination" there. A few small roles followed before he arrived at the Bauerntheater (Peasants' Theatre).

It was here that he learned things of decisive importance to him, things he would not have discovered during the normal course of 'bourgeois education".

Despite protests at the premiere of two short plays, *Heimarbeit* and *Hartnäckig*, at the Munich Kammerspiele, the response at the Frankfurt *Experimenta* indicated that this paid off. His basic talent started to show.

The performance of one of Kroetz' earlier dramatic works, *Wildwechsel*, at the Dortmund Studio Theatre therefore promised to be informative on the playwright's nature.

The play is full-length and consists of 26 connected scenes. But the playwright can still be seen to be groping. He is searching for pithiness.

His laconic, extremely naturalistic language is given colour by the local dialect used. But the merits of the linguistic style are more than outweighed by the long periods of boredom that sometimes crop up in the intentionally banal plot.

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The play is concerned with people who are alienated by one another and exist in social isolation.

Hanni, the thirteen-year-old daughter of a lorry-driver, allows herself to be seduced by a nineteen-year-old casual labourer, her first love.

Their relationship bears fruit. Hanni's mother, worn out by the daily strain of running a home, is shocked but tries to understand her daughter.

Her father, disturbed while watching television, wants to pay back the violator of his daughter and his family's hon[our] and calls for castration and other p[...] methods that had proved their wor[th in] the Hitler era.

Hanni panics. She gives her Franz a[...] and persuades him to lure her fathe[r] to the neighbouring heath and eli[minate] him.

The child is born in prison and [...] Hanni fails to see why young life sh[ould] die. Her love for Franz is over.

The development of the various [...] tions is direct. Everything is sh[own:] sexual intercourse in the hay or [...] striptease, urination, the preparatio[n and] execution of the murder.

This relentless directness has [...] comic than shocking effect becaus[e of the] artificial contrast between the lang[uage] and behaviour of the characters.

The difficulties of putting on su[ch a] play as this are obvious. Its dia[...] tension results not from speech or [...] dialogue (which Kroetz describes as [the] tip of an iceberg) but from the sile[nces] and the pregnant meaning behind th[em.]

Gerd Vielhab[er]

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Ze[itung] für Deutschland, 25 June 19[71])

Congress on Indi[an] and Indonesian culture in Tübing[en]

DEUTSCHE ZEITUN[G] CHRIST UND WELT

There was an Oriental atmo[sphere] about Tübingen recently. Pr[ofessor] Horst Erdmann had invited a lar[ge num]ber of guests from both home and [abroad] to a congress discussing the cul[ture of] India and Indonesia.

Hans Filbinger, the Baden-Württe[mberg] Prime Minister, welcomed the gue[sts in] words that showed more than a [...] knowledge of Asia. Education M[inister] Wilhelm Hahn and Minister Al[...] Seifriz also attended the congress.

Kushwand Singh, the well-know[n In]dian writer and at the same time [one of] the most original and imaginative [mem]bers of the Sikh community, addre[ssed a] meeting dealing with modern I[ndian] and Indonesian literature.

Lothar Lutze from Heidelberg U[niver]sity's department of South Asian [...] interpreted a number of modern [...] poems, showing how they were ex[pressions] of social criticism.

At a round-table conference chai[red by] Giselher Wirsing in the packed univ[ersity] lecture hall Indian writers discussed [the] problems of their subcontinent with [...] Germans who had lived there for a [long] period of time.

The Indian and Indonesian ambassa[dors] also spoke of their worries and appea[led] for more cultural exchanges with [the] Federal Republic.

A survey of the current sta[te of] Indiology was given at the end. Ind[olo]gical studies enjoy a high reputatio[n in] India and Indonesia.

The congress, due entirely to [Erd]mann's personal initiative, was c[...] by a most unusual spirit of frankness[. The] participants did not limit themselves [to] the normal exchange of comm[...] polite conversation.

(Deutsche Zeitung, 2 July 1971)

THE ARTS

Marcuse makes his mark on Cologne art theory conference

DIE WELT

Bazon Brock has on his own initiative taken a step that was long overdue though never carried out, much to the detriment of art and its reputation in its increasing isolation.

The Hamburg Professor of Art has, with the financial backing of the city of Cologne, invited twenty or so mainly young specialists to a unique five-day event, the Cologne Art Theory Conference.

They come from a variety of disciplines and include art educationalists, social psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists and historical philosphers.

Under Brock's direction they will try to redefine the concept of art according to inter-disciplinary aspects. It is the first time that a project of this type has received a research grant.

The reason for the conference is modern art's dependence on theory, a phenomenon confirmed not only by Brock alone who says, "The artist shows an increasing need for a theory on which to base his works instead of deriving a theory from the works he sees. That is shown by the need of many artists to work out themselves the theoretical context of what they paint."

The study of art has lagged a considerable way behind other disciplines, he adds. It is important to catch up on the developments in other branches of knowledge "so that we can find ourselves".

The conference was held in the Cologne Werkschule, an institute that is currently waging a dogged campaign against being incorporated in the new specialist university where it would obviously be out of place and could only languish. The Art Theory Conference was welcome support for its claim to be an academy in its own right.

The conference was devoted to a different aspect of art theory every day. The scientific and theoretic context was discussed on the first day and the following days dealt with the philosophic, sociological, artistic and anthropological sides of the subject.

During the sessions held in the mornings the public were not allowed to make an active contribution. In the afternoon however they were able to discuss the subject in small groups, each containing an expert.

The speakers did not always stick to the point and occasionally people would be talking about different things and not understanding what others were saying. The reason for this lay in the nature of the venture. All the experts attending the conference were subject to one learning process as it were and had no appreciation for other disciplines.

It took three days to overcome these difficulties and find a common idiom — the participants themselves admitted the fact.

Bazon Brock bears a lot of the credit for holding the conference together through its difficult early stages. He always led the discussion back to its central theme and acted as a skilful chairman.

He could not however prevent a lot of what was said being expressed in a specialist jargon that the public could not understand. But at the end of the conference the specialists were sufficiently self-critical to consider the problem of their hermetic terminology.

The first day was dominated by Herbert Marcuse and provided the conference with material right up to the very end. Marcuse, whose language was marked by a simplicity that anyone could understand, expressed astonishingly conservative views, many people felt.

He of all people defended beauty and what is called bourgeois art, branding its rejection as vulgarly Marxist.

Speaking on the question of whether art could be a means of social change, Marcuse said he thought it important that an opposition movement was growing against the existing fields of art, especially in France and the United States. Opposition was total: "A future revolution will be more complete than all previous revolutions."

Marcuse attacked Herbert Read's claim that classicism always represented the suppression of vital forces. Its emphasis on order was also an emphasis on the laws of beauty, he said.

Quoting Karl Marx' statement that Man always depicted the world around him according to aesthetic laws, Marcuse stated that there could be a connection between beauty, non-violence and happiness. This link must now be found, he added.

All works of art were affirmative of society and in opposition to it at the same time, he said, explaining his point by referring to Goethe's *Werther*.

The core of art was its opposition to reality which it overhauled and transcended. It conjured up a picture of a better society.

Surprisingly, Marcuse attributes an elitist character to art that intentionally alienates in ever-changing ways. It should instead allow the general nature of things to come across and be understood.

He does not believe that a "new society of the liberated" will mean an end to art. When word and concept, imagination and reason become identical, we should have reached a state of complete barbarism with no distinction between what is and what should be. The message of art, even traditional art, must continue to be heard.

The students attending the conference would have liked to have discussed the matter with Marcuse whom they had never seen in this light before. But he had to leave for another appointment.

His theories were a welcome consolation to the art educationalists who had previously interpreted his writings on the affirmative character of culture as an appeal for the abolition of art teaching.

They too demand radical reform. Gunter Otto of Hamburg University described the currend state of art teaching and the present position of discussions on reform.

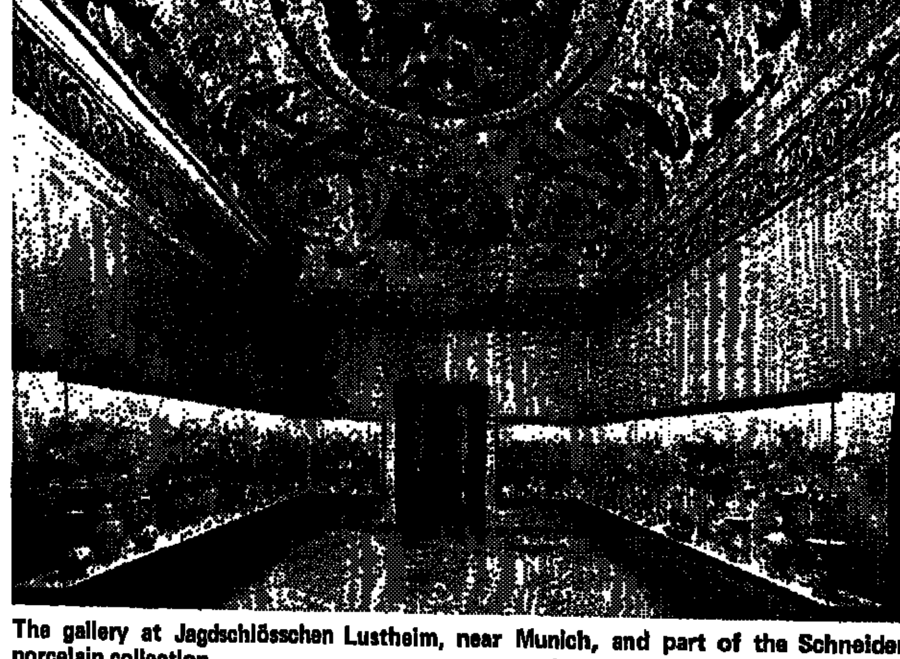
As the potential teaching content of a work of art must be the central point of reference in art studies, he said, there must be a thorough theoretical consideration of the work, involving some knowledge of sociology and communications studies.

Everybody was optimistic about the future of art. The more nature declined in the face of civilisation, the more important it could be to build up a counter-system to replace nature as objective chaos.

The chances of survival and political benefits would increase if conformity were avoided. Art must always lie contrary to normal social habits.

Werner Schulze-Reimpell

(Die Welt, 23 June 1971)



The gallery at Jagdschlösschen Lustheim, near Munich, and part of the Schneider porcelain collection
(Photo: Bayerisches Nationalmuseum)

Schneider porcelain collection on show in Munich

Of all the Bavarian castles and palaces in the immediate neighbourhood of Munich it was the Schleissheim complex that caused most displeasure up to a few years ago.

The Neues Schloss there was one of the last Bavarian castles to receive a renovation grant and Enrico Zuccalli's Early Baroque Schloss Lustheim was normally only seen at a distance as the final focusing point of Schleissheim Park. Its contents had been removed in the times of Maximilian Emanuel and its state of preservation was lamentable.

Three years ago Düsseldorf industrialist Dr Ernst Georg Schneider offered to donate his 1,450-item Dresden porcelain collection to Schloss Lustheim.

The authorities decided that one good turn deserved another and agreed to a complete renovation of Schloss Lustheim to make up for its Cinderella-type treatment in the past.

Schloss Lustheim was once again opened to the public and Dr Schneider, the donator of the excellent new porcelain collection, was given the right to live in Max Emanuel's residence whenever he wanted.

During the renovation work, the dust of past centuries was removed from the walls, revealing surprisingly beautiful frescos and grisailles thought to be the first examples of Baroque fresco painting in South Germany.

The artists Francesco Rosa, Giovanni Trubillio and Johann Anton Gumpp, like the famous Munich architect Enrico Zuccalli before them, had come to Munich from the Grisons and the Tyrol.

A number of paintings were once again hung in their original places. These include hunting scenes and the charming portraits of Max Emanuel's children by Martin Maingaud, a painter who surprisingly is known for little else.

Schloss Lustheim was not restored to its full splendour until Dr Schneider's collection of old Dresden porcelain was housed there. This is the largest part of his even more extensive collection.

Other Dresden pieces and items produced by Fürstenberg and Chinese porcelain studios can be seen today in Düsseldorf's Schloss Jägerhof.

Although Dr Schneider claims to have collected his porcelain for a long time as a

Kieler Nachrichten

mere layman and an art-lover, his collection is an astonishingly complete accumulation of all styles and varieties.

He admits with a smile that he does not really like the two monstrous and over-formal elephant candlesticks but they are an important part of the collection as they illustrate the variety of the art of porcelain.

It is of sociological interest that many of the dinner services manufactured specifically for the Saxon court of August the Strong, especially those ordered by Count Brühl, are not the most artistic products to have come from the Meissen works. Show and prestige was already more important than aesthetic judgement.

Where else are there so many splendid examples of Dresden porcelain allowing the visitor to survey the history of the Meissen factory and its various styles?

A number of sandstone vessels illustrate the period preceding the birth of porcelain in Dresden, the invention of alchemist Johann F. Böttger.

White porcelain was the first to be produced and was simple in form and decoration. Shortly afterwards, from about 1720 onwards, the products of the Höroldt era are of an incredible variety.

They are decorated with landscapes or magnificent Chinese-style scenes and motifs such as red dragons. Flower patterns once again flourished in the Rococo period and dinner services in the Kaendler era are dominated by contrast and size.

A tumbledown castle has now been turned into a source of pleasure for all porcelain-lovers!

Klaus Colberg

(Kieler Nachrichten, 1 July 1971)

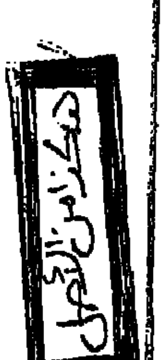
Philharmonic Society is founded

A group of opera and concert enthusiasts has formed the *Deutsche Philharmonische Gesellschaft*, a new society designed to preserve and promote orchestras in the Federal Republic. Its President is Ulrich von Fumetti.

Herr von Fumetti is at present Chairman of the Philharmonische Gesellschaft in Trier. Committees for the foundation of the new West German Philharmonic Society have been formed in 38 towns in the Federal Republic.

Simultaneous with the formation of the new society of music lovers a *Stiftung Orchester* has also been founded. From 1972 onwards this Orchestral Foundation will award 35 prizes every year to back provincial theatre groups and orchestras.

(Die Welt, 11 June 1971)



■ SCIENCE

Max Planck Society faces crisis

SüddeutscheZeitung

Sixty years after its foundation, the Max Planck Society for the Promotion of the Sciences is in a crisis. What the outcome is to be, no one knows. Not even this year's annual general meeting brought any light into the matter.

In simplified form, this is the present situation. The academic staff of the Society have begun to organise themselves in recent years and see research as an essential service performed by the body.

A basic condition for sensible research is, they believe, the participation of all scientists in the Max Planck Society and the admission of the public into its decision-making processes.

But a majority of the Society's representatives on the supervisory and controlling boards, on the Senate and Scientific Council attach more importance to science since the spread of knowledge as such is of value, to use Professor Adolf Butenandt's words.

These members too want research to be carried out in the public interest. They reject however the participation of the academic staff and propose instead a freedom of decision for all those bearing any sort of responsibility.

This is one of the proposals contained in the list of principles recently accepted in Berlin by the Scientific Council, the assembly of all scientific *members* of the Society.

Another of these principles states that scientists in the controlling organs should represent no interest group. To put it another way, they are not to be the elected representatives of the academic staff.

Members of the Max Planck Society are pointing back to the Von Harnack Principle accepted when the organisation was still called the Kaiser Wilhelm Society. Under this principle the Society put scientific institutes at the disposal of the most brilliant scientists.

Present research policy within the Max Planck Society concentrates on biology, chemistry and pharmaceutics. This cannot however be explained by claiming that it is only in these limited fields where there are brilliant scientists around whom scientific institutes can be set up.

Instead, this policy is a result of the requirements of our specific growth economy, as a shrewd analysis by a number of staff of Carl-Friedrich von Weizsäcker's Institute concluded.

The Society's research policy is also reflected in the fact that certain complexes are not examined or only within a modest framework. These include preventive and psychosomatic medicine, town planning and transport.

The Max Planck Society has always conducted basic research. The question always asked is what point can basic research be developed from.

A number of scientists today reply, "Not from the specific demands of political programmes and economic organisations but from reflecting on the true economic, social and political needs of society."

The government pays about half the Society's costs. Science Minister Hans Leussink recently told the Society that it ought to concentrate on those fields complying with the ever-valid ideals of peace the rational control of conflict or the prevention of material and spiritual need.



Here seen at the sixtieth anniversary celebration of the Max Planck Society in West Berlin's Kongresshalle on 25 June are Foreign Minister Walter Scheel, Berlin's governing Mayor Klaus Schütz, Professor Adolf Butenandt of the Society, which is the country's principle pure research organisation, and Bonn Education and Science Minister Professor Leussink. (Photo: dpa)

The Max Planck Society reacted as if this was a declaration of war. Its president Adolf Butenandt openly declared that research did not need to ask whether it was socially relevant.

The Scientific Council also approved the resolution that the Max Planck Society could not be told what fields of science it had to deal with.

The top men of the Max Planck Society have therefore got into an extremely difficult situation. They have risked an internal split as the majority of scientists seem to reject the tenets that have just been raised to official principles.

The Society will also find it difficult to explain its attitude to the public who after all sponsor it.

Butenandt's attempt to mark out a reform course for the Society is now seen in a different light. It was he who set up the Commission for Organisational Questions three years ago and allowed participation by academic staff in the body's work.

"But not much has come of it," states Secretary General Schneider, referring to the Commission. Indeed, the intermediate report now published is no more than a reflection of the mutually exclusive demands of the groups within the Society.

The restrictions imposed by some of the body's grand old men cannot be completely understood. A number of Institutes run by the Max Planck Society have already introduced what the academic staff demand – and successfully.

Examples are immunologist Otto Westphal's Institute in Freiburg and the Göttingen Institute run by Manfred Eigen, the physical chemist.

The election of the new president in a few months time will show what the future holds for the Society. It is doubtful whether the Society will be able to find another celebrity with the international reputation of a Professor Butenandt.

Some of the election candidates – the names of Lüst, Westphal, Coing, Gentner and Raspe have already been put forward – have no chance of being accepted by the majority of scientists, even though they are not allowed to vote.

Nobody within or without the Max Planck Society has yet questioned the justification for the organisation's existence. So far only reforms have been called for.

But if the Max Planck Society shows itself incapable of carrying out reforms it could quickly lose its reputation as the centre of research in this country. The Federal Republic could not afford to have this happen.

Martin Urban

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 June 1971)

Lawyers face lean years

Law graduates will face as bleak a future as never before in the Federal Republic from 1978 onwards, the heads of the law faculties of West German universities stated at their congress in Regensburg.

They claim that law studies have become an alternative subject for students who were unable to do medicine or another scientific course because of the entry conditions imposed.

Sociologists, psychologists and political scientists will all be competing with lawyers for posts in future. The situation in worsened by the bulge starting in 1978.

(Die Welt, 29 June 1971)

BDI paints gloomy picture of the future of eduction

The Confederation of Federal Republic Industry (BDI) fears that there will be a shortage of thirty thousand mathematics and science teachers in West German schools by 1980.

In the BDI annual report for 1970-71 it is stated that the proportion of chemistry students decreased from 4.5 per cent of the total student population to 3.2 per cent between 1958 and 1970.

The proportion of biology students dropped from 4,5 per cent to 3.4 per cent during the same time span. Demand is twice as high however.

Sixteen per cent of freshmen at West German universities studied engineering in 1958. This figure dropped to eight per cent in 1969.

Of the freshmen entering university in 1968 no more than 2.9 per cent were going to study chemistry. This is far less than half of the 1953 total of 7.2 per cent.

The BDI described State backing for research and development as inadequate. West German industry contributed over fifty per cent to the gross social product of the Federal Republic, the report stated, but had to depend on university research to ensure the future of its own research and development.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 17 June 1971)

Environmental engineering studies

A State Secretary in Bonn views talk about conservation as hysteria engendered by journalists. In Munich on the other hand there is a Minister of the Environment.

Fifty-three million of the sixty million inhabitants of the Federal Republic are not yet connected with a fully effective biological purification plant.

By 1985 the public sector will have to spend 45 milliard Marks on treating effluent. Industry will have to provide a further twenty milliard Marks.

In 1990 every person will produce cubic metres of refuse compared with the present figure of two cubic metres. This figure does not include the fifteen million cubic metres of industrial waste and 700,000 scrapped vehicles.

Air pollution is already so high in areas that the haze over towns cuts twenty to fifty per cent of the total of sunshine and 75 per cent of ultraviolet rays.

In view of these facts and the need to halt pollution, Max Streibl, the Bavarian State Minister for Land Development

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG
Industriekurier

and Environmental Questions, has proposed setting up departments of conservation engineering at universities.

Graduates of this new discipline would be employed in both supervisory and preventive capacities by industrial concerns and local government bodies.

Proposals concerning the training of conservation engineers have been drawn up by the future specialist university in Munich.

Students of the new discipline would have to be taught the most important parts of a number of technical subjects, for example physical and chemical measuring techniques, mechanical engineering, building construction, water supply and gas technology.

The difficulty here is providing a suitable all-round course for the subject. That is why universities and technical universities have opposed the idea of an environmental engineer.

Professor Heinz Schmidtke, chancellor of Munich's Technical University, considers the whole proposal to be worthless: "A conservation engineer would be a dilettante, a jack of all trades."

He would prefer to see environmental questions given more prominence in the normal engineering disciplines. Instead of setting up a special faculty or central institute of the environment, there must be cooperation between already existing departments to coordinate work currently being done on environmental questions.

In support of this proposal Professor Schmidtke stated that few university teachers know who if anybody is working in this field, in what particular branches with what degree of success.

At the present state of affairs there is absolutely no hope of conservation engineers beginning their training programme in the near future, especially as this requires a decision by the Education Ministers Conference.

One thing is however clear. Any engineer with specialised knowledge in this field will soon be in high demand on the labour market as industry will be turning with increased interest to this field.

Ernst Dohlus

(Handelsblatt, 25 June 1971)

■ MEDICINE

Group therapy cures alcoholics most effectively

Groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous are so successful in curing compulsive drinkers of their addiction that the alcoholic convalescent homes are only needed in extreme cases.

Professor Stephan Wieser of the Municipal Neurological Clinic in Bremen says that the reason for this unexpected development that began twenty years ago lies in the shortage of contacts with fellow-humans in these closed convalescent centres.

Depressive alcoholics, after drinking themselves into isolation, lose their final connection with the outside world on entering the clinic.

They are not given alcohol in the home, it is true, but as soon as they are discharged they often return to their old ways.

If they are then handed over to temperance associations such as Alcoholics Anonymous the chances of a cure

DIE WELT

are much higher than they are in the closed alcoholic centres.

The Main Bureau against the Dangers of Addiction, based in Hamm, recently announced that group therapy results in success in 73 per cent of cases treated by the addiction care service. This was however preceded by a six-month stay in a sanatorium specialising in addiction.

Of these "socially secure alcoholics" – former drinkers who have found a permanent job again – about two thirds never drink again while one third returned to their old habits for a certain period.

Anyone abstaining from alcohol for five years is considered cured and thus raises the success rate. But Professor Wieser told the North West German Internists Congress in Hanover that a number of former alcoholics returned to their old ways after ten or fifteen years.

The success of groups like Alcoholics Anonymous has revolutionised the treatment of alcoholics in the Federal Republic – their number is estimated at two million.

Ten years ago doctors thought that disulphiram ("Antabus") could work wonders. Professor Wieser now warns of the dangers to the circulation that it brings with it, possibly leading to a complete collapse.

He himself only uses the Antabus treatment as first aid in suitable cases. It has already been given up as a permanent course of medication.

Psychoanalytic treatment of neurotic alcoholics has also proved ineffective, the professor pointed out. The success rate of psychiatric treatment is no more than that of a spontaneous cure – about ten to fifteen per cent.

Professor Wieser also sees little future for personal treatment as the position of the doctor is felt to be authoritarian and stands in the way of a cure.

Addicts feel at home in a group, especially a group of former drinkers. Here he can mingle with other people like him and give up alcohol. Abstinence is not the aim of treatment but only the basic prerequisite. Addiction cannot be cured unless there is abstinence.

The somatic alcoholic poisoning syndrome has changed in many points in the last fifteen years. Professor Gustav Adolf Martini, the Marburg internist, spoke about this to the 77th Congress of the North West German Association for Internal Medicine.

Doctors are coming across the "Munich beer heart" more frequently. Otto Bollinger described the condition sixty years ago but it was dismissed for a long time as a pathologist's bogey.

In wine-drinking areas the Munich beer heart is replaced by the similar "Tübingen wine heart" – a cardiomyopathy with a considerably enlarged heart.

The rate of deaths caused by cirrhosis of the liver is significantly higher in the wine country of Baden-Württemberg than in areas where beer is drunk. The rate in Bavaria is average while the lowest figure is recorded in Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein.

The old view that abuse of alcohol leads to chronic gastritis is still contined in all medical textbooks but has had to be abandoned.

Modern diagnostic methods have shown that it is not gastritis that results but a pathological development in the pancreas.

Alcoholic pancreatitis tends to lead to arteriosclerosis. Professor Martini stated that the main cause for the condition was a shortage of a certain type of acid.

Hepatitis is not now thought to lead automatically to a cirrhosis of the liver. It can be cured with cortisone derivatives.

Secret drinkers were turning up in doctors' waiting rooms in even increasing numbers, the congress was told. These are people who drink regularly at home, though never admitting it, and then come to their doctor with vague conditions which pose problems in diagnosis.

Professor Martini said that secret drinkers – usually elderly women – could be recognised by a swelling of the carotid artery in the neck or by skin markings. Alcoholism among the young is also on the increase, the Professor added.

Friedrich Deich

(Die Welt, 28 June 1971)

Free medical examinations help fight cancer

Almost four hundred thousand women in the Federal state of Hesse attended the voluntary medical examinations held as part of the cancer prevention campaign. Some 1,200 of them were found to be suffering from an early stage of the disease.

The Hesse Medical Association drew attention to these figures to reveal the importance of measures designed to enable early diagnosis of cancer.

From 1 July onwards free examinations are available for all babies and children up to the age of four, for women from the age of thirty and men from the age of 45.

The permit issued by the State-backed medical insurance schemes allowing the bearer to have a free medical examination can now be applied for, if it has not already been sent.

The examination concentrates on cancer of the abdominal organs, the breast and rectum in women and cancer of the prostate gland and rectum in men.

Though cancers of the lung or stomach are much more common in men, the free medical examination cannot deal with them as there is no rational examination method.

Children are examined seven times up to the age of four to determine whether they have any physical or mental disorders.

Some 68,000 children, 1.6 million women and 480,000 men are covered by the free medical examination scheme in Hesse.

The four thousand and more doctors affiliated to the State-backed medical insurance schemes are now getting ready for the free preventive examinations and the expected rush.

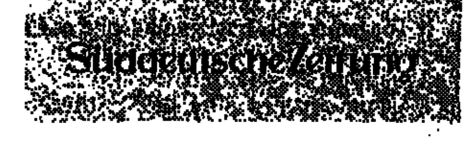
There are still a number of organisational difficulties. The main drawback is the shortage of cytology assistants to analyse the results. Up to now it has taken two to three weeks for a doctor to receive his smears back.

Doctors in Hesse now plan to improve the situation by setting up a training school for cytology assistants in Rüsselsheim.

"But the Federal state of Hesse," says Dr Zweiker, the head of the association representing doctors affiliated to State-backed schemes there, "has not yet provided any money for it."

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 29 June 1971)

Baden-Baden congress calls for restriction on neon lights



A considerable restriction in the number of neon light signs in city centres was called for by the executive of the Association of Residential Medicine at an international congress in Baden-Baden.

The Association explained that people must be protected against the constant strain on their eyes and the irritation caused by the overwhelming number of neon signs, especially during the hours of darkness when they need rest.

All types of advertising must be banned from greenery and the vicinity of natural landmarks and man-made monuments, the Association added.

Rotating or moving neon-light advertisements should not be allowed above window-height of the first storey. Street lighting must also be designed that people are not irritated by the glare when at home or disturbed by it in their sleep.

Another resolution passed by the congress called for experienced psychologists and doctors with some knowledge of residential and environmental medicine to be called in when planning and building large blocks of flats or residential areas.

The State, local government bodies, architects, planners and builders must pay more attention to the real living needs of the population and study the medical criteria for healthy urban construction.

Homes and residential areas must also be built in such away that they can be used by the elderly, physically handicapped and infirm. Thought must also be paid to children.

Walter Schaillies

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 June 1971)

Earth rotation decides the life of Man

One of the most interesting phenomena that behavioural physiology has tried to explain in recent years with the help and cooperation of medicine is the biological rhythm.

Even before its existence was experimentally proved, the famous Dr Hufeland, Queen Luise's physician, considered that our natural chronology was based on a 24-hour cycle.

The Halle student Gierse was the first person to establish the existence of the 24-hour cycle by analysing the measurements he had taken of his own body temperature.

Professor Jürgen Aschoff of the Max Planck Institute for Behavioural Physiology in Erling-Andechs near Munich spoke of the experiments undertaken by his Institute to prove the existence of this biological clock in humans and animals in a lecture he gave in Berlin during the annual general meeting of the Max Planck Society.

With the use of diagrams he showed that the reaction period of humans depended on the time of day. Another conclusion from the measurements was that women react more quickly than men as a rule.

All physical and mental human functions – not just the reaction period – depend on this daily cycle caused by the day and night alternation during the 24 hours it takes the Earth to rotate.

Professor Aschoff spoke of experiments conducted on volunteers in recent years by the Max Planck Institute of Physiology.

These human guinea-pigs were kept in absolute darkness for four days. Measurements of all the important bodily functions of the test personnel – for example the activity of the adrenal gland – showed that they continued to follow a 24-hour cycle.

The alternation between day and night, between light and darkness could not therefore be the cause of the body's 24-hour cycle. It must, the Professor concluded, be a case of independent endogenous rhythms built into the organism.

This hypothesis was strengthened by experiments on animals that were kept for days on end in soundproof chambers and at the same level of brightness.

Equipment in a chaffinch's cage measured its oxygen intake, its activity and feeding habits during the normal alternation of daylight and darkness and then the same functions when lighting and temperature were kept absolutely constant.

These experiments too showed plainly that the normal rhythm in all three cases continued undisturbed, even though the light was never switched off. Animals and birds must also have these endogenous rhythms.

All animals have these endogenous rhythms, the Professor claimed, everything ranging from amoeba to humans. They were not acquired, he said, but must be innate.

Professor Aschoff spoke of other experiments involving constant lighting. These too had proved that the bodily rhythms were never lost, even if generations had elapsed.

Experiments with flies kept in an artificial day-night rhythm showed the extent to which the organism was regulated to endogenous rhythms.

The life expectancy of all animals thus seems to depend on the biological clock.

Life expectancy would then be a function of the Earth's speed of rotation. On a planet with a longer or shorter rotation period the inhabitants' life would be correspondingly longer or shorter than on Earth.

Hans Lesser

(Der Tagesspiegel, 26 June 1971)



■ LABOUR AFFAIRS

Employers and trade union leaders cross swords at Bad Boll conference

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Reason was sought in Bad Boll, reasonable solutions were the most that was found. But the Evangelical Academy there had a good day, despite this disappointing outcome.

"Reason in the free play of forces" was the title of an economic seminar arranged by the Academy. Otto A. Friedrich, the Employers' Association head, and Heinz Oskar Vetter, head of the Trades Union Confederation, had been invited to put forward the opposing aims and views of their members.

They may have sounded willing to come to terms with one another but when it got to the central issue they were as uncompromising as ever, revealing their inability to reach an agreement that could be described by all sides as having reason.

The idea that there may be no such thing as reason is still painful. But we would like to retain our reason even though the idealist philosophy maintaining hope in reason is on its deathbed and everything that smacks of idealism is today avoided.

Despite the great demand for this commodity, even among men of the world, it is in short supply. Eberhard Müller, the head of the Academy, had therefore turned in vain to the management and trade union representatives.

Müller encouraged them to show some readiness to come to an understanding. But the two sides have always been prepared for an understanding as long as it is possible and serves their aims.

This was clearly illustrated by the statements of principle made by Friedrich and Vetter at Bad Boll during a discussion on "Social services policy as a challenge to industrial nations".

Vetter considers it self-evident that a world governed by reason should offer workers on the factory floor a dignified existence with the chance of developing their personality and sharing in decision-making. And he believes that the economy could afford this.

Friedrich considers that reason means the preservation of a social order in which a free and efficient economy creates the necessary foundation for every reform and further development of society. He is obviously prepared to put up with the unequal distribution of income, wealth and opportunity in the pursuance of this ideal.

It is no wonder in this situation that people turn to the State in the hope that it can impose reason. Heinrich Irmler then made a final offer so to speak for the Bundesbank in this respect while Otto Schlecht did the same for the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance.

The government and the Federal Bank, they said, must see to it that the fight for the distribution of the social product stops of its own accord as the economic conditions left both workers and management no other alternative than to share it fairly.

The result is a type of super-balance depending on price stability, full employment, a level balance of payments, continual growth as well as a fair distribution of the national income in a market economy with freedom of contract and wages.

Forecasts concerning the chances of such a super-balance would surely tend to be more accurate if the forecaster first cast an eye at the reality of things.

For years the State and the currency bank have been fighting, often in vain, to satisfy one or other of the many conditions on which this super-balance depends.

As the European Economic Community grew more powerful, the more difficult it became for any one of the constituent countries to pursue an independent economic policy.

Floating the exchange rate of the Mark to guard the economy against outside influences may have been the last really great show of independent economic action by the Federal Republic.

Heinrich Irmler, a member of the Bundesbank's board of directors, suggested ending the fight for redistribution by simply introducing a wage freeze. Ministerial Director Schlecht suggested taking the sting out of the struggle by concentrating on wealth policy.

Despite industrial action, the comparative level of wages in the Federal Republic had not risen much in the past ten years, he said, when it is considered that the proportion of the white-collar section of the working population had increased. That showed the senselessness of such clashes, he added.

But the trade unions want a rise in wages and are not at all happy at the wealth policy proposals made up to now. Vetter said that the unions were not interested in popular bonds and an encouragement to save as this did affect the distribution of power.

"Universal liberty entails restricting the power of the few," Vetter said and demanded comprehensive economic and social services planning with particular emphasis on expenditure.

Friedrich on the other hand believes that "human self-realisation" is something that takes place during leisure time. Political neutrality must be maintained on the factory floor, he said, as a penetration of politics into every sphere of life would be fateful.

He believes that we should always keep economic and social needs in mind when proclaiming the right of education. An over-production of university graduates alone would not help society or the graduates.

Friedrich said he believed that there was little latitude for redistribution as actual profits made up only seven to eight per cent of the national income.

Redistribution could easily threaten full employment as the heads of industrial concerns might reduce investment as they feel that they are not earning enough.

The struggle for redistribution will continue therefore. Indeed the fight may become tougher than it ever has been before in the Federal Republic.

One of the reasons for this is the fact that divergences from the stability aims in the various extremely different regions of the Common Market countries will certainly be greater than is today the case in national economic policy. Stability means different things in South Italy and South Germany.

After his talk of the aims and dangers of a European economic policy, Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Common Market Commission, had to answer a number of questions from worried listeners who felt that the Federal Republic was on its way into a community of inflation.

Haferkamp radiated optimism however. His good mood was soon evident in the way he changed the title of the seminar into "Reason as the plaything of free forces".

The Common Market Commission's confidence in the positive effects resulting from the necessity of adopting measures to the benefit of a united Europe seems to be unshaken.

But necessity is not the same as reason. People who argue on the basis of necessity are often trying to avoid the force of reason and limit themselves to what is practical, fearing that any other course might fail.

Europe lives from necessity. The Common Market Commission will probably never be able to magic reason out of the top hat of European policy so that all can see it and believe it as they would the rabbit.

The dispute between management and labour in a united Europe will certainly not die down. The two sides are tough and uncompromising when it comes to matters of reason (that is principles) and are neither ready nor able to throw them overboard.

Friedrich says, "The labour struggle as a final argument is one of the rules of the market adjustment. At times it prompts both sides from their members' last reason."

Every battle ends with a compromise and that takes good sense if nothing else.

Hans H. Schnacks

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 1 July 1971)

Distribution of wealth

The income of households in the Federal Republic is earned by:

82 % Wage- & salary-earners — 18 % selfemployed

Their capital is distributed as follows (in percentages):

	Wage- & salary-earners	selfemployed
More than 10,000 DM in savings bank accounts	61	39
More than 10,000 DM in securities	47	53
More than 10,000 DM in shares	42	58
More than 100,000 DM invested in house ownership	57	43

Karl Schiller's concerted action committee loses momentum

The Concerted Action programme of Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Karl Schiller is running the danger of becoming more an excuse for eloquent theorising than the dynamic instrument it was meant to be.

The first talks between government, industry and trade unions in 1967 were carried out with enthusiasm but the initial fire has died down with the course of time and meetings have become more a matter of routine.

Delegates still attend the meetings but why is there no action in the real sense of the word? The most recent meeting, the 21st in the four-year history of Concerted Action, provided some important answers.

Firstly, the government, or to be more precise the ministries responsible, can only explain decisions after they have been made and hope that this will create greater understanding for its measures.

No decisions can be taken within the framework of the Concerted Action itself, unless it were to be placed under the chairmanship of Karl Schiller along the lines of the old Reich's Economic Council.

Apart from the fact that experiences with the Reich's Economic Council in the early part of the Weimar Republic do not encourage imitation, it can scarcely be imagined that a decision-making body of this type would be able to compete with the Cabinet and the Bundestag.

But the trade unions and employer associations also find it hard to accept Concerted Action. The unions are afraid of being made to toe the line, while the employers argue that the democratic structure of their organisation does not permit any control from above.

It is against this background one must view the fact that the phrase "with their full authority" was omitted from the communique issued after the 21st meeting.

An attempt had been made to persuade both employers and unions to use their full authority and put an end to the "boom policy" in both wages and prices – that is a policy in which both sides press forward their own demands without considering the wider implications of their action.

"The aim behind Concerted Action is to bring together the organised groups of our society and provide objective information that can help to limit the fields of conflict," Minister Schiller stated on 13 February 1968 after the series of talks had been going on for twelve months.

But the fields of conflict are little changed today even though four years of Concerted Action have elapsed. Are the meetings no more than a forum where each side states its case and cares little for the arguments of others?

Concerted Action has not yet sunk that low though signs of tiredness, boredom and resignation are beginning to appear.

That is due not to Concerted Action as an institution but to the way it is run and organised. Changes must be made soon if the talks are not to slide slowly but surely into insignificance.

It must be remembered as soon as possible that Concerted Action is a body like the Bundestag where the full assembly does not discuss every single detail of an issue but entrusts committees with preparing the ground.

Concerted Action does indeed have a committee of this type. But if it meets only once, and then 48 hours before meetings, then the best it can do is fix the agenda.

But committees of this type would be the best place to discuss wage increases, extra costs and similar topics.

Concerted Action could be given decisive stimulus if its basis was made broader and firmer by setting up a number of sub-committees.

Instead of arguing about whether a 12.4 per cent wage increase was correct or one of 14.3 per cent, the body could turn to greater things.

Roland Müller

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 June 1971)

■ INDUSTRY

Design council toy awards lack originality and imagination

This is the third year the design awards inaugurated by Economic Affairs Minister Karl Schiller have been made in Darmstadt. This year the semi-official competition was open to products and designs for children up to the age of ten.

Any manufacturer or designer is at liberty to submit entries. The only condition is that the entries are available on the home market.

The Federal design award is worth nothing more than the label for the finished product. An additional award made with up-and-coming young designers in mind is worth several thousand Marks. Entries for this award may include designs that have yet to find a manufacturer.

When one recalls that the child's world was the subject of a design competition only two years ago – the 1969 Rosenthal studio prize – and that the child and its environment is also the subject of the first competition arranged by the Berlin International design centre (though product design is not in this instance involved) the idea might occur that this is a country that is fond of children.

Alas, this is far from being the case, as any mother or father of children will confirm. You need only to take an occasional glance at toy shops or playgrounds to prove the point.

Yet these various awards are not intended to gloss over the fact. It would be fairer to say that they bear witness to an awareness of the problem, though it must be admitted that its existence was not generally realised until childhood in our large cities had unmistakeably assumed the proportions of a catastrophe.

The Design Council, the body responsible for judging the entries, is certainly not above the suspicion of joining in a movement that is generally considered to be critical, justified and progressive merely for the sake of its own image. Product-oriented competitions are, when all is said and done, unlikely to get at the root of the problem.

Awards for the best entries and conspicuous silence about the general run of products do not represent a critical review. They are indeed likely to gloss over the general quality, as critics have rightly pointed out.

The critics would have preferred a catalogue of totally unacceptable entries to a handful of prize-winning products. The awards certainly go to an elite that cannot be said to be representative of the whole. Even the sum total of entries submitted are not characteristic of the market as a whole but merely of the goods manufacturers consider to be prize-worthy.

This criticism applies not only to this year's competition, however, but to the whole idea so far. The Design Council ought seriously to consider arranging a permanent display of products on the market. The award-winners would then be seen in their true light.

Nine hundred products were submitted this year by 299 manufacturers, not to mention 65 designs for products.

The eight-member jury, assisted by five so-called experts including neither an educationalist nor a psychologist nor a sociologist, must have had their work cut out ploughing through this mountain of entries in a mere three days.

Its success in so doing was due in no small measure to the depressingly poor quality of most entries. Awards were made to 27 products and three designs and will be presented at the Berlin industrial fair this autumn. After a swift glance at most entries one cannot but admit that the adjudicators appear to have made a fair choice.

A fair choice it may appear to the layman to have been but this still does not solve the problem of a jury consisting of design specialists but not a solitary individual capable of laying claim to

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG
Industriekurier

specialised knowledge in the field in question, in this case the world of children.

It was only the poor quality of entries that forestalled disaster. In its present composition the jury cannot but walk a tight-rope. It knows too little about the specialist topic and has too little time in which to judge entries.

The award-winning entries included splendid animal toys for the bathtub from Britain. They are not only fun to touch but also cost a mere 7.50 Marks, which means they stand a good chance of selling in large numbers.

Then there is Spiel 8, a collection of coloured wooden building blocks from Trautwein. They are extremely attractive and can be used to build houses, walls, cars and so on.

Kurt Naef of Switzerland submitted a 3D Mühle game (similar to draughts or checkers). The third dimension complicates matters for people used to the traditional board game but there is nothing wrong in stimulating the imagination.

Labyrinth, a ball bearing game from the same manufacturer, is less satisfactory. It is more likely to soothe the shattered nerves of a tired manager than appeal to the imagination of a child.

A plastic baby bath manufactured by Sulo and costing only nine Marks is also worthy of mention. So is a kind of artificial tree consisting of a network of nylon ropes. It is quite a height but extremely safe. The jury was right in recommending the Minister to award it a special prize.

In view of the range and number of entries it hardly mattered that no prizes were awarded to prams, bicycles, dolls, crockery and textiles. What definitely was conspicuous by its absence, though, was an award-winner designed to allow children to combine and give free rein to their imagination along the lines of paints or tools.

The limits of the 1971 prizes were particularly apparent when it came to judging entries for the special playground equipment prize.

Mini-Olympics, futuristic decor, angular wooden animals and plastic monsters fitting neatly into the picture of a dormitory suburb differed little in their stupidity and desire to create an effect for the sake of the effect from the general run of industrial products.

The only entry that really sounded a new note in playgrounds was submitted by a group from Krefeld art school but had to be disallowed because it did not conform to the conditions of entry.

The Krefeld entry did not consist of new toys. It was a jumble of scrap cars, cardboard boxes, sticks and foil against a natural background.

This, of course, is quite the opposite of the more or less skilfully arranged therapeutic playgrounds that nowadays no longer satisfy even the most elementary requirements of children but at best prevent too much harm coming the child's way at the least possible expense.

Children's playgrounds nowadays are as artificial and inhuman as the rest of our environment. They are narrow pens in parks and between blocks of flats which, no matter how much attention is paid to detail, are dependent first and foremost on the price of land and only secondly on the needs of the children themselves.

An award based purely and simply on the range of industrial products cannot fail to do no more than gild these cages a little more. Replacing them by something else is not within the award's scope.

The Darmstadt jury may not be in a position to change the entire make-up of the award system but when topics of major social importance are involved it might at least be frank about the limits within which it operates.

Elke Trappschuh

(Handelsblatt, 30 June 1971)

Patents court employs experts to judge applications

The Federal Patents Court in Munich has been in existence for ten years. Important yet unnoticed by the general public the court deals for the most part with patent, registered design and trade mark cases. It has its work cut out, the number of chambers having increased from 27 to 36 since the Court was set up as an independent body. The Court employs 174 judges, 95 of them lawyers and 115 with engineering qualifications. Some 88,000 cases have been started since the inauguration of the Court on 1 July 1961. About 79,000 have been brought to a successful conclusion.

Inventions have been patentable in this country for 93 years, the Patents Office having been set up in 1878. Almost from the start controversies arose and appeals courts attached to the Patents Office were soon set up to deal with complaints.

The decisions of the appeals tribunals were considered to be legally binding even though strictly speaking the proceedings were dealt with by officials of the Patents Office, invariably one of the parties involved.

This practice survived the Kaiser, the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich and when the Federal Patents Office set up in business in 1949 the appeals procedure continued as before.

A fundamental change did not loom on the horizon until the Federal Administrative Court upheld the appeal lodged by a Stuttgart lawyer, ruling on 13 June 1959 that "The decisions of the appeals tribunals of the Patents Office are, as administrative proceedings, subject to inspection by the courts."

This was in accordance with Article 19 of Basic Law which states that "If someone is wronged by a government agency he is entitled to appeal to the courts."

The rulings of the appeals tribunal were thus no longer final. Appeals could now be made to the administrative courts at three levels up to the Federal Administrative Court. This, however, would have involved intolerable lengths of time in matters involving patents and trade marks.

The economic importance of the resulting problems was such that relatively swift legislative action was undertaken. The first step was a law stipulating a time limit for appeals against past decisions by the tribunal.

In January 1961 Basic Law was amended to allow for the establishment of a patents court and an Act was passed setting it up. Only two years after the ruling by the Federal Administrative Court the Federal Patents Court was opened in part of the Patents Office building on 1 July 1961 by Minister of Justice Fritz Schäffer.

The members of its 27 constituent courts did not need much time to get to know the subject. They were, in fact, the staff of the old appeals tribunals.

Now, however, they were bona fide judges and no longer Patents Office officials. They were independent in their decisions subject only to the provisions of the law and appointed for life.

The revolutionary nature of the change was and remains the fact that the technical staff of the old tribunals were also accorded legal status in view of the special nature of the Court.

Technical or scientific knowledge is of crucial importance if the right decision is to be made. Legal training is not enough. This applies in the main to the 23 technical courts, consisting of nine specialising in mechanical engineering, five in electrical engineering, four each in chemistry and physics and one in metallurgy.

In all these courts the majority of judges are technicians and engineers but one member must always be a full lawyer.

There are also three courts that deal with appeals designed to have patents or trade marks that have already been approved declared null and void.

Five trade mark courts, a registered design court and a design protection court deal with their respective sectors and a legal appeals court is at the ready to deal with general aspects of patents law.

Last but not least two courts specialise in decisione provided for by Law No. 8 of the Allied High Commission.

When the Patents Court started work it already had plenty to get on with. Some 12,000 patents appeals and 8,000 trade mark appeals awaited a decision.

The waiting-list has since been reduced considerably. Of the 88,000-odd proceedings instigated over the past ten years 79,000 have been dealt with, more than 99.5 per cent of them finally and with no further course of appeal.

The Federal Court of Justice may be a higher authority but can only be resorted to as a general rule provided that the court against the decision of which an appeal is to be lodged is willing to allow the case to go further.

This has so far been the case on only 320 occasions.

"Although the Federal Patents Court is the largest in the country both in the number of its judges and the number of courts it runs," a press release issued to make the anniversary notes, "the general public know little about it."

"This may well be because its rulings are not of the sensational kind likely to interest the public. Yet despite this lack of publicity there can be no doubt that the decisions made are frequently of such economic and social importance that they far exceed most civil court rulings in significance."

Erwin Tochtermann

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1 July 1971)

■ TRANSPORT

Cars may need to be taxed off the roads to forestall traffic chaos

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

It remains to be seen whether or not the motoring organisations' forecast that this country is about to witness more traffic on the move than ever before is true.

There can certainly be no doubt that the beginning of school holidays in North-Rhine-Westphalia and Holland will prove a critical weekend with the largest wave of traffic of any weekend this year.

Hundreds of thousands of motorists will be heading for their holiday destinations in one gigantic caravan of pressed steel. When cars travel bumper to bumper on the autobahn and only manage to inch forward hour after hour the function of the motor car is reversed.

Instead of being a swift and comfortable means of passing through time and space it becomes a spray-painted prison. Passengers are wedged in their seats. They can neither move backwards nor to the side.

Hour after hour of this may bring many people to realise that their favourite means of transport can easily become a curse once it stands in its own way because the roads are no longer able to cope with the deluge of traffic. This is not only already the case; the situation is growing steadily worse.

If the forecasts are accurate there will be 24 million private cars in this country by 1980 – ten million more than at present. Apart from during the holiday season or at weekends they are mainly to be found in or around the cities, where large-scale roadbuilding programmes are both financially and geographically out of the question.

But would roadbuilding be much use anyway, for that matter? When Minister of Transport Georg Leber drew up his spectacular overall transport plan in 1967 he inevitably concluded that all efforts to expand the road network would be far exceeded by the increase in the volume of traffic.

Road-widening schemes and motorway construction can, then, at best alleviate the problem. There is no way of solving the imminent chaos.

Even if unlimited cash were available for roadbuilding there are natural limits. The countryside cannot be desecrated without abandon. Man cannot deprive himself of more and more living-space simply for the sake of the motor car.

The main aim of the Leber Plan was, then, to shift the emphasis of goods traffic at least from road to rail. A sober glance is sufficient to reveal that so far he has not had much success.

This may, of course, be due to a large extent to the continuing boom calling for use of all available means of transport. On the other hand his measures will probably have to be implemented far more forcefully.

The problem of overmotorisation occurs as soon as the motor car no longer fulfils its original purpose of being a fast means of private transport. It can only be solved by providing one or more really attractive modes of transport in competition.

It is high time priorities were decided on and pursued consistently until a solution has been reached. And we should be prepared to face up to necessary expenditure.

In the local transport sector public services (Underground, suburban electric, buses and trams) must be given a shot in the arm and made such an attractive proposition that they save motorists both time and money.

Young Socialists, Jungdemokraten and Hans-Jochen Vogel, chief burgomaster of Munich, are being only logical when they call for the money at present spent on building roads, bridges and parking-lots to be ploughed into public transport instead.

One never ceases to wonder how hard the government finds it to take the easiest of measures. At present motorists who drive over a certain distance to and from work are entitled to tax relief.

If this proves insufficient incentive to persuade the private motorist to leave his car at home in the morning there will in the long run be no alternative to banning private traffic in the city centres. There is certainly no alternative as yet.

There is no point in imagining that it would only be necessary to slow down the production of private cars for a while. Foreign manufacturers would be only too happy to bridge the gap.

Besides, the economic consequences would be catastrophic. The motor industry is a key industry. Directly or indirectly one employed person in eight depends on it for his livelihood.

Basically congestion on the roads represents an opportunity for other modes of transport to do better business. This applies in equal measures to local and long-distance transport, to passenger and freight carriage.

Should the need arise the government ought not to hesitate to bring pressure to bear in order to redistribute traffic. An increase in mineral oil taxes, for instance, would induce many a motorist to spend less time at the wheel.

The motor car is a problem not only for town planners and roadbuilders. Fumes from millions of exhausts represent a health hazard for Mankind.

Starting next year the leading of petrol is gradually to be reduced. This is a modest start and more measures must follow unless chaos is to strike again.

Malte Retiet

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 2 July 1971)

VW and Mercedes unveil safety models

Six years ago US lawyer Ralph Nader and his virulent attack on the American motor industry triggered off a safety campaign that has since assumed world-wide proportions.

Everywhere manufacturers are working on experimental safety models, particularly manufacturers who export a good deal to the United States.

In accordance with the new regulations four American firms, among them Ford and General Motors, are busy developing safety models that are due to be unveiled this autumn.

In Europe the prototypes of two German experimental safety cars have quietly been premiered.

In Wolfsburg Volkswagen have unveiled a small safety car with an unladen weight of 900 kilogrammes (1,980 lbs) developed under the aegis of Professor Ernst Fiala, ex-head of the department of motor vehicle construction at West Berlin's Technical University, and Dr Wenderoth.

In Untertürkheim, Stuttgart, Daimler-Benz have unveiled to a premiere audience including Minister of Transport Georg Leber the prototype of a safety car similar in size to a Mercedes, with an unladen weight of between 1,500 and 2,000 kilogrammes (3,300 and 4,400 lbs) that is.

Present on both occasions was Douglas Toms of the US government agency responsible for automotive safety. Following his visits to Volkswagen and Daimler-Benz Mr Toms went on to visit other European motor manufacturers.

In common with domestic manufacturers they embarked a year ago on a world-wide programme of close cooperation on research into and prevention of traffic accidents and the construction of prototype so-called safety cars in accordance with the provisions of the US safety agency.

The new Volkswagen based on the present safety model will one of these days take over from the Beetle, which has sold so well in the United States. It must therefore conform with US safety specifications.

To look at the new VW has much in common with the K 70. In order to make the concertina zones in front of and behind the passenger cell large enough this family saloon will need to exceed the weight originally intended. It will weigh not 900 but nearer 1,000 kilogrammes (a ton).

Thanks to the energy-absorbent design of the front and rear passengers will stand a reasonable chance of survival in the event of a head-on collision at speeds in excess of the specified speed of eighty km/h, or fifty miles an hour.

Mr Toms was plied with computer information about the safety performance of the experimental model and was also shown a demonstration using the so-called air bag. Volkswagen are not particularly enthusiastic about the air bag. They recommend an improved version of the safety belt.

The engine of the safety model is a piston engine but it is more than likely that the series model will be powered by a Wankel rotary engine.

More powerful rotary engines save space and weight in comparison with piston engines of similar performance, something that will prove particularly important in metting the proposed safety requirements, especially as regards exports to the USA.

The Daimler-Benz safety model is based on the existing Mercedes. It incorporates all safety devices that have so far proved effective plus a few newcomers such as specially high and powerful bumpers, nets and protection against side-on collisions.

BMW will not be developing a safety model of their own. In both research and testing they will cooperate with Daimler-Benz. This is sensible and to be welcomed and an example of cooperation from which all concerned, including car-buyers, stand to benefit.

Peter Waldeck

(Das Parlament, 2 July 1971)

Opel plan to combine safety and economy

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Guidelines for the development of an experimental safety car based partly on European agreements and partly on US specifications have been issued by the motor industry association. They provide for an unladen weight of between 900 and 1,100 kilogrammes, roughly a ton.

Opel too have developed an experimental model based on these specifications. It is based on the four-door Kadett saloon. Chief engineer C. S. Ch[illegible] recently went into the details at Opel's Rüsselsheim, Frankfurt, works.

"We based our work on the assumption," he said, "that in collision with a stationary obstacle at a speed of eighty km/h (fifty miles an hour) the Kadett would have to absorb 2.8 times as much kinetic energy as in the present vehicle conducted at fifty km/h (thirty miles an hour).

"As a result we needed a three[illegible] framework and a powerful transmission tunnel. The engine selected was a 1.9-litre clean exhaust model meeting the specified requirement of acceleration from fifty to 110 km/h (thirty to seventy miles an hour) in twelve seconds.

"Engine and transmission were arranged in the usual way. Front-wheel suspension incorporates a number of impact-absorbing protective devices. Both manual and automatic transmission will be available.

"The final design proved impossible to construct at a weight of less than 1,100 kilogrammes, the reason being the extent of additional components needed to comply with the impact-absorbing specifications using standard metals rather than expensive materials such as titanium."

"The logical outcome of the concept is that the requirements can only be fulfilled by a vehicle that is longer, heavier and more expensive than the Commodore but no roomier than the present Kadett.

"As a manufacturer of a great many small and medium-sized saloons Opel feel bound to warn against the consequences of exaggerated requirements that may lead to the total disappearance of small cars from the market, smaller models having been banned for their failure to comply with the crash test requirements," he added.

"Opel have set themselves the task of determining the realistic limits of a 900-kilogramme safety car so as not to be forced by inappropriate demands to spend money to no use," he concluded.

Realistically priced

So Opel are now in the process of entering the second stage of their development programme. The target is a 900-kg model capable of being manufactured in a long and using conventional materials yet boasting the highest degree of safety economically attainable.

Opel engineers have no desire to build an unreasonable showpiece far removed from the realities of automobile construction. They want to provide the car-buyer with a safety car that he can buy at a reasonable price.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 30 June 1971)

■ RESEARCH

Scale-model tests reveal that ships sink on an even keel

Frankfurter Allgemeine

How do ships sink? Tests conducted with models at the Hamburg shipping research institute have gone a long way towards answering the question.

The provision of an answer is particularly important in the case of nuclear vessels such as the *Otto Hahn*, which are powered by atomic reactors that might contaminate the ocean.

At a recent nuclear shipping conference in Hamburg Dr E. B. Hattendorff delivered a lecture on the results of the scale-model trials, commissioned by the Nuclear Shipping and Shipbuilding Society.

A number of models were constructed, one of the *Otto Hahn*, one of a passenger liner and several freighters. They were built of fibreglass-toughened plastic and to a scale of one in seventy.

The scale-model *Otto Hahn* was roughly fifteen feet long, for instance, and all models had magnetic valves at various points. The valves could be opened from the control panel at the pool.

Depending on the sequence in which the valves were opened a leak at bow, stern, amidships and its progress through the sinking vessel could be simulated.

The models had 18.7 feet of water in which to sink, equivalent to a depth of approximately 210 fathoms or 1,300 feet. Their progress was filmed from an underwater observation post.

Initially, it transpired, a ship sinks fairly fast. For the first couple of hundred fathoms ships of the size used, corresponding to lengths of between 500 and 600 feet, gain in downward velocity.

The speed at which they sink then appears to decline and level out until the seabed is reached. Adequate observation of this final stage proved impossible, however, because the pool used was not deep enough.

At relatively great depths the sinking ship will invariably tend to return to a hydrodynamically favourable position. No matter how it sank it will tend to return to an even keel.

The models could not be induced to hit the bottom of the pool in the position in which they first sank. So it can be said with a fair degree of certainty that on the high seas a sinking ship will hit the seabed on an even keel and rust.

This information should prove particularly useful for the rescue vessels now being built by the Americans to rescue the crews of nuclear submarines that have sunk at depths of up to and including 2,000 metres, or 6,500 feet.

At depths of this kind nuclear subs are bound to hit the seabed on an even keel. Escape hatches can be built accordingly.

The experiments also proved that speed of sinking can vary considerably, at least in the initial stages. A vessel damaged in the bow plummets fastest into Davy Jones' locker.

With a leak of this kind the *Otto Hahn*, for instance, could sink at a speed of twenty metres a second at the stern. The midship, housing the nuclear reactor, will not sink at more than fifteen metres a second.

The final speed when the ship has steadied itself and returned to an even keel is unlikely to be more than ten metres a second.

The corresponding figures for vessels of different sizes and proportions vary considerably but the principle remains the same.

Harald Steinert

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 June 1971)

Space research museum

To mark his 77th birthday on 25 June Professor Hermann Oberth, pioneer of space research and mentor of Nasa's Wernher von Braun, opened a space research museum at Schloss Pfinzing, Feucht, near Nuremberg. The Professor is here seen scrutinising a conical jet he developed as long ago as 1929. (Photo: dpa)

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■ YOUTH

Critical youngsters would spend more if they only had the money

Cool, colourful and exotic, shaggy-maned, shaggy-clothed and slovenly of gait, critical youngsters are changing the dull image of the civilised world.

They make themselves out to be outsiders, make an art of provocation and consciously upset people who have come to terms with the world and consider themselves to be upright citizens obeying the conventions of morality, the established order and the predominant ideology.

To hear them talk they abhor the run-of-the-mill lives of their parents and despise their superficial delight in spending money and being good consumers.

They feel themselves to be capable of taking a cool, calm and collected look at the world around them, of caustic criticism and consequently of withstanding the temptation the advertising industry represents. They, or so they would like us to believe, are not to be taken in by a saturated market.

Their world, they eloquently assure all and sundry, is not of this world. It holds forth the promise of a better future, a future that will be richer in humanity, warmth and intellect.

Yet it would wrong to conclude that young people today are an entire generation of outsiders. Quite the reverse. Closer scrutiny soon shows that the majority of young people have no intention of leaving the fold and keeping to the straight and narrow path of consumer abstinence.

They may practice abstinence but not deliberately and with the aim of shunning the gleam and glitter of consumer society with Puritanical fervour. They do so because they have no other choice.

As an eighteen-year-old girl apprentice put it, "I really love window-shopping, for hours at a time. I look at the lot but buy nothing because I simply can't afford to. I reckon I live fairly sensibly, but only because I have no alternative."

A boy of the same age adds that "As an apprentice you are hardly in a position to succumb to consumer society to the same extent as someone who is earning a full wage. You just don't have the money."

Comprehensive statistics about the amount of money young people have at their disposal are not available but a survey of the youth sector of the market conducted by the Society for Consumer Research of Nuremberg in December 1970 allows of a number of conclusions.

"Children" living at home or with relatives are worth 15,000 million Marks a year, made up partly of pocket money and partly of money they have earned themselves.

In addition there are the extras laid on by generous parents and the earnings and pockets money of minors who have already left home.

In other words young people have somewhere between 15,000 and 20,000 million Marks of purchasing power per annum. Most of them without a doubt would be only too happy to live off the fat of industrial production like their parents.

"If I had more money I would buy myself records, faster skis, better clothes, a better flat and a larger car," one apprentice noted, and a schoolboy came up with a wants list that was almost the same: "A smart car would be important, more and better clothes, of course, new skis and going out to eat more."

Aversion and aggression in the face of consumer society seldom lead to consistent abstinence even thought a number of young people may mean what they say seriously enough and this and allied topics are debated heatedly and to the point by intellectuals among their number.

Far more frequently, particularly among young people who are still at school, they are the result of permanent frustration in view of amply-laden shop windows.

"In theory," one sixth-former comments, "revolt is boldly attempted. In practice the attempt proves a miserable failure. All of us are happy to have more money. In my class money is the foremost topic. We all want to be able to afford a thing or two at long last."

The youthful revolt against the paradise of the most glittering, richest and most persuasive supply of goods there ever was is, understandably enough, a non-starter.

At best there is a certain awareness of prices. "We differ decidedly from adult consumers in not buying everything that is advertised on television." But may not this amount to no more than making a virtue out of necessity?

Will the young man whose proud words these are stick to his guns when he is earning more money? "I dare say but then you never can tell."

What is known for a fact is how much young people spend in the course of a year and what they spend it on. The *Bravo* purchase panel conducted a survey of just this over the period July 1968 to June 1969.

Its detailed results are the most recent available and conclude that young people between the ages of fourteen and 24 spent roughly 13,000 million Marks during the period under review.

This figure included 4,500 million Marks on clothing, 975 million on cigarettes and tobacco, 751 million on drink, 615 million on the bottom drawer and 601 million on cosmetics and allied products.

Expenditure on books hard-bound and paperback was considerably less in comparison, amounting to a mere 172 million Marks.

In common with prices and incomes in general these figures will now probably be higher than in 1969 but market researchers feel the trend will hardly have changed.

Young people, the statistics indicate, are every bit as susceptible to image-making products as their elders.

They spend most of their money on clothing, which makes the man at least as far as appearances are concerned, on



Boutiques for trendy youngsters highlight a wide range of shoulder bags for the fashionable male (Photo: Astrid [illegible])

cigarettes, which not only give them a whiff of the great, wide world but also create the impression of adulthood and having a say in the running of affairs, and drink (427 million Marks worth of it alcoholic), which like "in" narcotics conveys the impression of manhood for an hour or so.

Basically, then, the consumer behaviour of young people corresponds exactly to that of the so-called Establishment. The oldsters show off with homes, swimming-pools and large cars. The younger generation show off with suede, boots, hot pants and the inevitable corduroy jeans.

Young people who are unable to keep up because they are not given all the pocket money they would like work over the holidays. "At nineteen or twenty you can't just stand and stare. You have to have one thing or the other. You are sick and tired of being a penniless student."

Stimulation of demand, carried out at enormous expense, adept and deliberate advertising designed to imbue all consumer goods with a note of adventure and sex, social upgrading and being up to date is nowhere without effect.

Ad men succeed in making protest conform inasmuch as it consists of flowing locks and floppy clothes. They are transformed from symbols of protest to styles of fashion.

Many young people conclude with a sigh that "There is no point in joining in protest. What the protesters wear becomes fashionable and then you are subjected again. It is vicious circle from which there is no escape."

On the other hand young people have least reason to bow their heads in resignation. When all is said and done they are the only social group that is wooed, lured and manipulated but also influences the market.

Youth is synonymous with beauty, love and success. No one wants to be old. Everyone has to gird and surround himself with articles that suggest youthfulness.

The young look is a means of boosting sales. All of a sudden young people have become the pioneers among consumers. What they wear and approve of and what they like doing is "in," is "with it."

Young people thus wield a threefold influence on the market. They have a 20,000-million-Mark slice of the consumer cake, they are *pioneer consumers*, the yardstick used by manufacturers and ad men, and last but *not least* they also play an *important part* within the family unit.

According to a Kontest survey parents listen to their children's advice in 75 to eighty per cent of households and bear it in mind when buying new items.

Viewed in this light it would be dreadful if young people were *in the main* no longer to be satisfied with verbal protest and the role of a yardstick for older consumers but to make refusal to conform fashionable.

Not that there is much likelihood of this happening. The temptation is too great and even a few fashionable left-wingers have been integrated in a very short space of time.

Sibylle Krause-Burger

(Die Zeit, 25 June 1971)

Ten- to seventeen-year-olds, 5,206 of them, were asked to describe the person they would most like to emulate. It could, they were told, be a real person, an imaginary one, or a combination of several people.

A seventeen-year-old girl apprentice wrote that she would like to be a girl in a big city, "a pavement artist by days selling my paintings or drawings in Paris, London or Berlin. I would like to know lots of other young people who are also artists and hitch-hike round the world with them."

This, then, is a modern youngster. Or is it? Did not young people in centuries past move around? Everyone has heard of the travelling journeymen of days gone by. Even so, it is something new for a girl to want to hitch-hike around.

Yet it is equally characteristic that this seventeen-year-old girl would dearly like to return to a normal bourgeois way of life. "Later on," she continues, "I would like to be completely different. I would be happy to be a good wife and mother and lead a good Christian life and marriage."

Teenagers hanker after art and millions!

The hero worshipped by one sixteen-year-old schoolboy takes some beating. "He is twenty-eight and six foot four. He has a blond moustache and wears tailor-made suits. He is extremely rich, a millionaire, multi!

"As for his character he is certainly intelligent, otherwise he would not be in a position to have got so far in industry or public life. He has a good knowledge of literature, particularly German. But his well-stocked library also includes works of Italian, English, Spanish, Russian and French literature.

"He knows all there is to know about world affairs, too, speaks good French, English, Italian, Spanish and Russian. He is a ruthless businessman but often makes donations to the Church. He is not a regular church-goer but does believe in God.

"He is a little egoistic but can exercise restraint if it is to his advantage. He is a rich and knowledgeable man who is not averse to the pleasures of life. He is my ideal and the man I would most like to emulate."

A thirteen-year-old girl would like to be someone who is nice and obedient towards her parents "because I am not always strong willed enough to be so myself." And a twelve-year-old boy would like to be like someone who works hard at school and does his homework as soon as he gets home instead of going out playing instead."

In drawing the conclusions from these and hundreds of other examples in "Ideals of Young People in Europe" (published by A. Henn of Ratingen) Professor Gérard Lutte notes that one of the main tasks incumbent on teachers is to help young people to find ideals on which to model themselves.

Gerhard Weise

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 19 June 1971)

■ SPORT

Avus racetrack reopens for fiftieth anniversary

Frankfurter Allgemeine

According to the computer the Avus is still the fastest racetrack in the world. Porsche's computer estimates the maximum speed at which the new, flat north bend (it has a camber of only one in ten) can be taken at 260 kilometres an hour, equivalent to 163 mph.

In practice not even the most daring adepts at the power slide will negotiate it at more than 200, though, if the experience of the first racing after a break of four years, held on 3 and 4 July, is anything to go by.

The races were held to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of what, after Kurfürstendamm, is probably the best-known street-name in Berlin (after several years of road works that temporarily put paid to racing both roads are now linked to the Stadtring urban motorway).

The racing may have lacked some of the atmosphere of the Avus' great and glorious international motor-racing past but this did not discourage a number of well-known racing drivers and old-timers from coming along.

Past stars of the Avus include Rudolf Carraciola, Manfred von Brauchitsch, Count Berghe von Trips, Hermann Lang and Stirling Moss. Among those present were Hans Stuck, whose son was among *those* taking part, and Karl Kling.

Both men were on more than nodding terms *with the old track*, which despite its two *long straights* and 45-degree banked bend *rising* to a height of 39 feet (now no more than a memory) was far from the easiest of racetracks to negotiate.

Karl Kling, now sixty, won the Berlin Grand Prix in 1954 at the wheel of a Mercedes Silver Arrow. His judgement on the alterations after a victory lap at the wheel of one of the old racers was "I like the proportions of both the bend and the width. The new North Bend takes many safety factors into account".

Ex-champion Hans Stuck also took a hand at the wheel and subsequently admitted, "You know, I have raced round this track for decades yet today's was the quietest lap ever. I have often been in the lead but repeatedly been dogged by bad luck just before the finish."

The idea of building the fastest racetrack in the world came, as it were, from elsewhere. Karl Friedrich Fritsch, the racing consul, came a cropper in the 1907 Imperial Grand Prix because of the holes in the road of the Taunus track. There had, he decided, to be a track in Berlin.

The Automobil-, Verkehrs- und Übungsstrasse, Avus for short, was christened and work started in 1912 but was interrupted by the war. The project, which had meanwhile been bought by industrialist Hugo Stinnes, was completed in 1920. The racetrack was 19.6 kilometres long, roughly twelve miles.

The notorious North Bend was added in 1936/37. It was soon to become the undoing of many a driver. There were 100,000 spectators at the inaugural race on 30 May 1937 during which Bernd Rosemeyer set up a lap record speed of 276.4 kilometres an hour (172 miles an hour).

This made the Avus the fastest racetrack in the world. Hermann Lang won the race, Rosemeyer dropping out because of a flat tyre. Carraciola and Manfred von Brauchitsch both had to drop out because of clutch trouble.

Hermann Lang's average speed over the entire race was 261.6 kilometres an hour, Ernst von Delius's 261.5 – roughly 164 miles an hour.

For years this was considered to have been the fastest race ever run. Not until the Indianapolis racers put in an appearance at Monza were faster lap times put up.

Today's trend is for high-speed tracks to be considered less and less valuable as sporting events. The Avus too has come to be a testing-ground for tyres and engines rather than for the skill of individual drivers.

The golden days of the Avus, many people will sadly realise, are over and done with. The number of fans has



Racing on Berlin's Avus track again after a break of several years (Photo: Schirner)

declined even though thousands of people still line the track on race days.

The enthusiasm has been tempered by criticism for other reasons. A fair number of people consider the noise an event of this kind causes in a city to be intolerable.

Their arguments may sound convincing enough but it should not be forgotten that Berlin fans are among the most enthusiastic and yet are only allowed to race along the Avus some three times a year, it being part of the normal road network for the rest of the time. Berlin drivers have to travel to West Germany to train.

In this respect too, then, the situation of the city presents difficulties. Are the few spectacular racing events to be forgone or ought not an appeal to be made to the proverbial tolerance of the people of Berlin, the local residents, who should be persuaded to show some degree of understanding for the needs of motor racing in the divided city?

Karlheinz Renfordt

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 July 1971)

Show-jumping at Aachen overtaxes riders and mounts

Some 120,000 spectators, 200 competitors and the officials of the Aachen-Laurentberger Racing Club must have breathed a sigh of relief on the evening of 4 July after spending nine days working their way through the 270-page programme of the thirty-fifth Aachen international show-jumping tournament.

The Aachen organisers of this, the major equestrian event in the country, are indignant at the idea that they are as interested in the quantity as they are in the quality of their tournament.

"It is no particular ambition of ours to ensure that at least twenty countries are represented," Albert Vahle, president of the club, comments.

This statement must be taken with a pinch of salt seeing that there was unmistakeable pride in the announcement that the Aachen Prix des Nations was the best-attended since the Mexico Olympics in 1968.

Anyone who wanted to was at liberty to send a team to Aachen and the outcome was that the three best teams in the world at the moment, the United States, Britain and this country, fought tooth and nail while at the other end of the scale the Hungarians and Dutch pointlessly overtaxed their horses with astronomical minus points.

Only the Japanese exercised restraint or took a realistic view of the situation (whichever way one prefers to see it) in opting not to take part.

The riders and mounts from the land of the rising sun have been in training for the past year under the guidance of Kurt Jarasinski at Elmshorn in Schleswig-Holstein and will be sticking to their guns for another year until the Olympics come round.

The most prominent member of the Japanese equestrian team is, incidentally, the son of Prince Takeda, President of the Japanese National Olympic Committee.

During the nine days of show-jumping at Aachen riders and mounts had first to cope with intractable swamps and then with increasingly hard and dusty savannah. It was an equestrian marathon at times reminiscent of horse-borne battles of old.

Sound restrictions of some kind or other would be advisable, though the organisers understandably set great store by including at least two weekends that were likely to draw the crowds and boost the gate-money.

It is worth considering whether such a mammoth undertaking should necessarily include the European championships, splendidly won, it will be recalled, by Hartwig Steenken of Hanover.

The equestrian stadium in Aachen, boasting a hinterland that is traditionally interested in horse-riding, would hardly have been less full. As for the European championships, they could be held elsewhere and be a financial success on their own. The unmistakeable tiredness of riders and mounts towards the end of the Aachen tournament would seem to indicate that this might well be a good idea.

This country's dressage team, which won the European championships two weeks beforehand in Wolfsburg, lost their first Grand Prix for eleven years at Aachen (provided, that is, one disregards *the 1970 world championships*).

Josef Neckermann on the ten-year-old mare Venetia boasted the number one and retained the lead until his last cimpetitor took the field. He was surprisingly outridden by Ulla Håkansson of Sweden on Ajax.

A surprise victory this may have been but it is eloquent proof of the progress the Swedes have made in recent years. At Wolfsburg they won the bronze medal.

In the ride-off on the Sunday morning Neckermann pulled it off after all, though. Besides, the Frankfurt mail-order magnate has no reason for dissatisfaction.

In Venetia and van Eick, which is a year younger than the mare even and rode its rider into second place at Wolfsburg, Neckermann now owns two grand prix dressage mounts, comparative youngsters, too.

Sweden's success at Aachen must have given the rest of the world fresh hope at Aachen after many years of resignation, this country's performance having for so long been so successful as to give rise to despair of ever being abelt to compete.

This is one of the infrequent instances of competition adding spice to equstrianism. A litte more cheer could do no harm at all in a sport that this country has dominated for so long. *Thomas Graf*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 5 July 1971)

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